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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2012

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Cowbridge school celebrates its international sporting stars

ABOVE:
At its recent sports presentation evening, Cowbridge Comprehensive School welcomed on stage all the pupils who have received international honours – and it turned out to be quite a crowd!
(FOR MORE PHOTOS, SEE PAGE 32).

Cowbridge woman's run will be tribute to brother

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

A VALE woman will be running the Cardiff Half Marathon in October – in memory of her twin brother, who died suddenly two years ago, aged just 38, from the heart muscle disease cardiomyopathy.

Sally Lisk-Lewis, a 40-year-old freelance producer from Tair Onen, Cowbridge, is honouring her brother, Neil Lisk, who died in September 2010.

He had hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a disease that causes the heart muscle to thicken. This can affect the heart's electrical system and reduce its pumping power.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Sally Lisk-Lewis and her husband Tim have a poignant reason for running the Cardiff Half Marathon this month.

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Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk

'Immigrants help support our ageing population'

DJ RADFORD (*GEM letters, September 20*) is wrong to suggest that Britain is a country with its priorities in the wrong order.

The letter refers to a Bulgarian family who were found sleeping rough outside Westminster Abbey and were sheltered in a council house.

This was not a short-cut to a life on benefits, however, but temporary accommodation as their claim for asylum was assessed.

The family were housed there to protect several children, who were reported to be sleeping rough amongst discarded nappies, and as an alternative to family detention centres which imprison children alongside their parents.

Even legal immigrants from Bulgaria are not protected by the benefits system until they have worked for 12 months.

They pay taxes and help to support our ageing population, often returning home without making any requests of the state.

Immigration from outside the EU is only possible if there are vacancies British nationals cannot fill – and this has been essential in restoring institutions like the NHS to their former glories.

Your correspondent also mentions MPs' expenses.

The cost of allowances has risen this year, but only in comparison to 2010/2011, when the general election resulted in a long period where MPs were away from Westminster and did not make any claims.

It is quite right that the use of taxpayer money should be made more transparent, just as it is surely right that we protect children of any nationality from destitution or imprisonment.

These are British values and we can be proud of them.

Madeleine Moon MP,
Bridgend.

'A tradition we cannot afford'

I THINK Coun Robert Bertin has hit the nail on the head with his call to drop the pomp and circumstance of the expense of having a mayor in the Vale.

I also feel that they should dispense with the town mayor.

They serve no useful purpose whatsoever, except to satisfy the out-of-date people who call it 'tradition'.

Well, it is a tradition we can ill afford!

There are council workers having pay cuts and we will even lose their jobs because our council bleats on about being strapped for cash.

These so-called mayors are jointly costing the taxpayer upwards of £200k per annum, which is a pointless waste of our money.

The council also spends countless thousands of pounds on consultancy fees to unknown bodies for advice they can get for free just by talking to the people of our town.

I know many people will disagree with what I am saying, purely and simply because they are not seated in the workplace and watching the distress the pay cuts/job losses are affecting genuinely hard working council workers.

We are in the middle of an economic downturn, and still these council bosses see no harm in wasting millions each year on, for want of a better word, nonsense.

It's time these people woke up and spent some time in the real world, instead of the utopia they think they have created.

Barrie V Evans,
Barry Island.

'FACT: MOTORISTS ARE SUBSIDISED BY THE STATE..!'

WITH reference to the recent GEM letter headed '*The perils of Port Road behind slow cyclist,*' I would like to point out that cyclists are not obliged to ride on cycle paths where provided.

This is fortunate because even the best British bike paths, which are few and far between, are still below international standards of best practice, particularly the Dutch principle of 'sustainable safety'.

If the cycle path is so wonderful, why would a cyclist choose to suffer potholes and heavy traffic?

The writer jokingly wishes that motorists had "car paths" available. In fact, they do have an extremely expensive network of roads built exclusively for their use – motorways.

On the point of road tax, cyclists do not pay it, but neither do motorists. Roads are paid for through general taxation, so cyclists contribute in other ways – such as income tax, VAT and council tax.

This is not just arguing over semantics. Road tax was abolished in 1937 because, as Winston Churchill said: "*It will be only a step from this for them to claim in a few years the moral ownership of the roads their contributions have created.*"

Even if cyclists were subject to vehicle excise duty, since it is based on exhaust emissions, they would pay zero.

Nevertheless, you might say that motorists pay certain taxes that cyclists do not, so maybe a sense of entitlement is justified?

A recent report by the Institute for Public Policy Research states that, while motorists contributed around £32 billion in VED and fuel duty in 2010, they were responsible for costs between £43-56 billion due to "*excess delays, accidents, poor air quality, physical inactivity, greenhouse gas emissions and some noise impacts*".

This figure excludes costs which are "*difficult to estimate*", such as "*severance of communities, loss of tranquility, degradation of landscape and countryside, the opportunity loss of land used for roads and parking, waste disposal (cars, tyres, used oil), diffuse water pollution from oil runoff, and wildlife casualties.*"

The conclusion is that motorists are subsidised by the state!
E Donovan,
Barry.

'DON'T BLAME THE CYCLIST!'

I WAS appalled to read the letter submitted by Darren Weaver in last week's GEM.

By his own admission the road surface was in an appalling state, so what does he expect the cyclist to do?

He makes no reference to whether or not the cyclist was old or young.

Why shouldn't the cyclist be on the road? He has as much right, if not more, than Mr Weaver to use iT.

I cannot accept that the driver was travelling at seven mph, or that the cyclist was weaving from the gutter to the middle of the road.

At that speed the driver would have stalled!

Perhaps he should direct his frustration at the local authority and not the cyclist.

Why he didn't overtake does not bear scrutiny.

All he had to do was give one beep of his horn and that would have alerted the cyclist to the fact he wanted to pass.

Nigel Daniel,
Cowbridge.

'Cycle path is an obstacle course'

A GEM letter writer asked why a cyclist was using the road and not the cycle path at Port Road?

I myself am a keen cyclist and very rarely use the obstacle course that is called a cycle path. When this path was first being planned, I wrote to the highways department to explain how a Continental cycle path works – they are certainly more flowing than the horrible monstrosity we have ended up with.

Between the roundabout at the junction of Port Road and the Docks link road in Barry, a cyclist has to dismount to cross the road six times minimum before arriving at the boys' comprehensive school.

This is stupid: a cyclist has more restricted visibility than a motorist, and all the road junctions should give cyclists right of way, as happens everywhere on the Continent.

The cycle path across the Waterfront is even worse: a cyclist cannot turn his/her head enough to see traffic behind when they approach all the roundabouts and junctions on the road: they have to stop and look behind.

Do people realise that every time a cyclist stops and dismounts, he/she is at risk of over balancing and falling? This is a known fact.

I ride considerable distances on a push bike on the Continent, where even the roundabouts have a cycle path around them – the motorist has to give way to cyclists.

I assume councillors visit our twin town in France, on social and fact-finding missions. They should observe how roads are laid out.

So yes, I also ride around the potholes and rough parts of the highway, just to have continuity and ease of flow when cycling.

I find Continental drivers are far more respectful of cyclists, so maybe these missions should include the planners.

Andrew Wright,
Barry.

Share your views with the Vale!
Let us know what you think about local issues.
email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'CYCLISTS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS'

FOLLOWING on from a letter in The GEM from Darren Weaver of Barry, I would like to correct a popular misunderstanding.

The so called '*road tax*' is actually a vehicle excise duty and the funds derived are NOT earmarked for road upkeep and repair...

The following is fully referenced from Wikipedia: "*In a BBC report on Look East in May 2010, about a cyclist who was knocked off his bike by a car, the presenter read out a series of emails from viewers expressing the view that 'cyclists should pay road tax' if they wish to use the roads.*

"After receiving a 'huge number' of complaints from viewers following publicity created by iPayRoadTax, the BBC broadcast a second piece which clarified the fact that roads are paid for out of general taxation".

Conclusion: We all pay for the roads through general taxation, therefore cyclists have as much right on the road as VED-paying vehicles.

Ben Cobbett,
Barry.

Costly planning appeal defeats could be avoided

IN a recent letter to The GEM (September 6), Coun Fred Johnson as chair of the planning committee said he wanted to give his members training to avoid decisions against officers, such as those the council has lost on appeal.

But is his target right, considering the two recent examples?

When the waste wood incinerator on Barry Dock ('Sunrise' renewables) rejected by the planning committee, went to inquiry, the Vale Council officers' case covered only sirens on reversing lorries, vibration damage to buildings on the Cardiff Road in Cadoxton (no actual evidence) and aspirations for clean development of the dock (no evidence, just a possible planning application).

They said nothing on the tremendous noise from the incinerator plant itself, nothing on the fumes which could take parts of Barry over the NOx limit, nothing about the ultrafine dust reaching local homes, nothing about the fire hazards of stored wood chips; and nothing about the disposal of thousands of tonnes of toxic ash, covered in the Friends of the Earth case.

No wonder the inspector judged the council case was not serious, and made it pay the £100,000 inquiry and appellant's costs.

For the recent appeal on drilling for fracking at Llandow, the Vale officers mentioned pollution of local water sources, but couldn't provide details of the sources. The inquiry considered noise at the nearest home. FoE proposed non-disturbing night-time levels in accord with WHO guidance, but the Vale officers accepted much higher quarrying noise levels.

Nor did they support FoE's argument for environmental impact assessment of the whole fracking operation, despite the Welsh Minister advising a "precautionary approach" and "additional environmental considerations."

Again, the officers had no defence against a costs order because their case was so poor.

At neither inquiry did the Vale officers argue that the high level of public concern is a legitimate planning objection.

This compares with the rejection of a wood-incinerator like the Sunrise one in Trafford, Manchester, when the council argued "genuine and significant public concern" plus harm to regeneration of the area (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-15670265).

Surely Coun Johnson needs to arrange training for the planning officers, as well as councillors.? This should include how to write reports that give evidence on the range of planning issues, allowing the councillors to exercise judgement in balancing them; and giving evidence in support of the councillors when going to public inquiry.

Max Wallis,
Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth

Dreaming of new tenants?

REGARDING the development of the Vale Magistrates' Court building (The GEM, August 16) where is Newydd going to find anyone to occupy the shops?

Lots of shops are unoccupied on Holton Road already. To me, they are dreaming!
Alex Campbell,
Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL OCTOBER 11)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
04 Thur	09.20	9.3	21.38	9.2
05 Fri	09.49	9.1	22.09	8.8
06 Sat	10.22	8.7	22.41	8.3
07 Sun	10.59	8.2	23.19	7.8
08 Mon	11.48	7.7		
09 Tues	00.26	7.4	12.58	7.3
10 Wed	01.53	7.2	14.35	7.4
11 Thur	03.33	7.5	15.49	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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BOOK FESTIVAL'S LAST CHAPTER FOR 2012 TELLS...

Inspiring story of Rosie's triumph over adversity...

IF you thought The Cowbridge Book Festival 2012 was all over, it's time to think again!

There is one more event to come and this is definitely not a case of last but not least!

On Wednesday, October 17, Rosaleen Moriarty-Simmonds will give a presentation of her autobiography Four Fingers Thirteen Toes at Ystradowen Village Hall at 2.30pm.

Rosie overcame horrendous injuries to her physical being as a result of her mother being prescribed Thalidomide during pregnancy.

She was born with four fingers, two sprouting from each shoulder and 13 toes on legs which came to an abrupt end above the knee.

This deeply moving, but uplifting book is about triumph over devastatingly severe disability.

It is the remarkable story of a strong-willed and courageous woman to achieve a lifetime's desire to be independent against all the odds.

Despite having no arms or legs Rosie pushed herself through Cardiff University and graduated with a BSc., (Hons) Degree in Psychology in 1985.

After working for the Civil Service for a number of years, Rosie formed the RMS Disability Issues Consultancy.

She has campaigned tirelessly for equality for disabled people and has worked with the BBC and ITV on various projects covering human interest and the politics of disability.

ABOVE: Rosaleen Moriarty-Simmonds

Rosie is married to solicitor Stephen Simmonds and they have a 17-year-old son James. She describes her family as an ordinary family doing extraordinary things.

Prepare to be inspired. This book isn't just about Thalidomide although it is interspersed with the remarkable factual history of the drug stretching back to the atrocities of the Nazi regime during World War 11.

This is Rosie's story, the story of a strong willed daughter, wife and mother, and respected business woman, a testament to her strength of character.

For tickets to a talk on Four Fingers Thirteen Toes, call in to David Barnes at 35 High Street, Cowbridge, or phone me on 01446 774827.

All proceeds will again go to The Noah's Ark Appeal and Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

Stella Cheeseman

St Mary's Harvest service raises funds for homeless

A congregation of more than 30 attended a novel Harvest service at St Mary's in Bonvilston on Sunday, September 23.

The church was wonderfully decorated with local donations and gave the interior a welcoming feel.

Gifts of thanksgiving were presented, representing the earth, tools and farming produce, and these were brought to the front of the church, each with an accompanying prayer.

The service was officiated by Rev Edwin Counsell, with the prayers led by Vivienne Hayes, who put this delightful service together. Mary Jones from St Georges church played the organ.

After a thoughtful sermon by Rev Edwin Counsell, and a few farming prayers from 1951, the evening was concluded with a bring and share supper and a glass of wine.

Pictured beside the gifts are: (left to right) Vivienne Hayes, Mary Jones, Paul Fisher, Kath Lougher and Martin Evans.

The collection raised £300 for the Huggard Centre in Cardiff who do excellent work in the care of the homeless.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to decorate the church and for the generous donations received.

PF

MP joins residents in beach clean

Vale MP Alun Cairns joined in the beach clean-up at Ogmore-by-Sea recently.

VALE MP Alun Cairns joined the Keep Wales Tidy campaign supporters and Penybont Surf Life Saving Club by helping out on a recent beach clean at Ogmore-by-Sea.

Keep Wales Tidy work to encourage local action to protect and enhance the environment of Wales. They helped co-ordinate the beach clean with members of the surf life saving club to ensure that the beach at Ogmore by Sea is kept clean, safe and tidy.

Mr Cairns said: "If you have spent any time on the beach recently you'll have realised that marine litter has become a big problem.

"Often the high tide mark on any beach can be littered with all kinds of flotsam and jetsam. The plastics, metals and glass don't belong there. Some of it comes from shipping, some from fishing and some from those who visit our beaches.

"The rubbish on our beaches is not only unsightly and potentially hazardous, but it is also harmful to the marine environment in one way or another.

"Penybont Surf Life Saving Club and the team from Keep Wales Today made sure that there were many volunteers on hand to help the clear-up – a good job done by all!"

RBL social evenings

THE recent innovation by the Cowbridge branch of the Royal British Legion to hold social evenings has proved a great success.

These are held in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall and consist of a bingo session, raffle, and a general get-together.

During the interval, there is a finger buffet, provided by Sylvia, wife of Haydn Painter, the chairman, and other ladies.

As there is no drinks licence, members are encouraged to bring their own wine, and generous sharing of this with others provides yet another opportunity for 'social mingling'!

Why not come and join us at the next event on Thursday, October 11 and bring some friends? Doors open 7pm; eyes down at 7.30pm. **BW**

Vale Bridge

VALE of Glamorgan bridge club, club night (18 pairs):

1st. Sara Bartlett & Helen Barrie 69.05 per cent; 2nd. Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 62.80; 3rd John Henson & Geoff Tinkler 59.23; 4th. Sue Norris & Su Summerhayes 56.25; 5th. Mary Moore & John Evans 55.06; 6th. Vida Halford & Glyn Williams 53.57.

Please note, 'Children in Need' events start on Monday, November 12 and at Llanbleddian, on Tuesday November 13; and Penlline, Friday November 15. **BS**

Cowbridge and district Bridge

COWBRIDGE and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian) results for Tuesday September 25:

1st Diana Lewis and Dot Isaac 60.32 per cent; 2nd Glenda Roberts and Marian East 60; 3rd Sara Bartlett and Sylvia Phillips 57.94; 4th Brian and Pat Swain 56.25; 5th Dennis Barker and Pauline Lane 55. **ME**

Read your GEM online
cowbridge-today.co.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Autumn fayre

PLEASE go along to support the inaugural autumn fayre which will take place this Saturday at St Canna's, Llangan, between 1pm-3.30pm.

There will be something for all the family, with stalls including home made cakes and produce, tombola, bric-a-brac and a selection of books for adults and children with a children's corner, games and surprises.

There will be a photography competition for a rural scene submitted in three age groups – primary, secondary and adult groups.

Please give your photo to Dave Reed at 'Preswylfa', Llangan, this evening with your name, group and contact numbers.

Entrance 50p for adults and children admitted free. The fayre is supported by the Vale rural events network team.

Forthcoming events

ST CANNAS: October 11, coffee morning, 10.30am-12 noon; October 14, Eucharist service; October 24, Village Link, 'winter interest in the garden'; October 25, coffee morning 10.30am-12am; October 28, family service.

Interesting talk

ON September 26, Mr John Williams gave an interesting talk on his mountaineering adventures from Betws y Coed to Chamonix in the French Alps.

Reminder

OCTOBER 12, Harvest festival at Llangan Primary School; parents welcome, 9.30am start.

Club resumes

ALTHOUGH work is still being carried out on the new gents and ladies' toilets, Young at Heart club members were able to resume their meetings on September 27.

These will continue every Thursday in the Treoes Community Hall, at 1.30pm; new members welcome.

Good wishes

COMMISERATION to local Llangan resident, Mrs Gill Harding, who sustained an injury to her arm, which is causing some discomfort; and to Joan Thomas, Saron Chapel stalwart, who also had the misfortune to fall at her home, injuring her arm.

It necessitated a stay at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

A time for nostalgia at St Fagans!

THE age-old saying *'the sun shines on the righteous'* **was certainly true when members of the Cowbridge Friendship Club again had a fine afternoon during their visit to the National History Museum in St Fagans, travelling there by Vale of Glamorgan Green Link coach.**

Everyone enjoyed a leisurely stroll around parts of the grounds and then the members spotted the Derwen Bakehouse...

After their visit, there was not a loaf of bread in sight and they certainly put a dent in the display of scones and *bara brith*!

From there, it was a short walk to the Gwalia Stores, where they had a short break and some members, of course, couldn't resist the produce on display.

Then it was a time of nostalgia, visiting the cottages and great interest was shown in the prefab bungalow, as some members could remember these being constructed – even living in them – where the big attraction was a 'fridge'.

This was followed by a short stop in Cafe Bardi for a welcome cup of tea before travelling back to Cowbridge.

At our next meeting which will be held on Thursday, October 25 the speaker will be giving a talk on Patagonia.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to join our Friendship Club, where transport is provided, please telephone 01656 668446.

PAT SMITH, (Leader)

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Two hectic weeks in the life of the Cowbridge town Mayor

DURING many of my civic duties, one of the questions I am most frequently asked is whether I am finding it an enjoyable experience and how busy we are.

So I thought this week I would give you an idea of my diary for the past two weeks – a very busy period in my term of office.

Coun Andrea Burges, my consort, and I started another week on Saturday September 15, in conjunction with fellow councillors, with a heritage and Open Doors day at the town hall – a chance to meet and greet the public in the Mayor's Parlour and display the traditional robes, chains and historic items of the town council.

The next day, Sunday, took us to Llantwit Major to attend the mayoral Civic Service of Coun Ann Matthews at St Illtyds Church,

On Wednesday 19 we accepted an invitation from The United World College of St Donat's to attend a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Atlantic College in 1962.

This was a wonderful occasion with many distinguished guests, too numerous to mention, including Queen Noor of Jordon, members of the close family of the late Lord Louis Mountbatten and not forgetting Monsieur Antonin Besse, whose extreme generosity in gifting the castle and grounds to be the home of Atlantic College, made the past 50 years possible.

Queen Noor, helped students to bury a time capsule in the grounds of the castle, then delighted everyone by unveiling a portrait of the Late Rear Admiral, Desmond Hoare, the first headmaster of the college – painted and donated to the college by Llanblethian artist, Mrs Deidre Schweitzer, wife of Mr Michael Schweitzer, who was Desmond Hoare's PA at the time the college was founded.

Thursday, September 20 ,saw the whole day taken up as chair of governors of Y Bont Faen School, when I joined other members of the governing committee, including Mr Meic Griffiths, headteacher, to interview candidates for the post of year-3 class teacher to replace Mrs Amanda Griffiths.

Mrs Griffiths is a long-standing and much-respected teacher and also a member of the board of governors, who resigned her position in order to spend more time with her family.

Later that evening Andrea and I were off again on civic duties, joining many distinguished guests to attend the annual reception, given by the MoD at the Officer's Mess, St Athan, to thank the local community for all the support the RAF and the Armed Forces have received from the community over the years.

We were greeted by Wing Commander Paul Regan who later took the salute. We were privileged to witness a fly-past of an RAF Hawk jet.

...All set for another busy civic day!

The Friday and Saturday saw us supporting the wonderful Cowbridge Music Festival at two more of their programme of six concerts.

The first was to showcase the wonderful local talent that Cowbridge has nurtured and the second was a concert of Elizabethan music, which I have to admit, I sadly failed to get to, as I found myself on my knees changing the wheel of my Landrover, which had punctured while I was rushing to retrieve a bunch of escapee store lambs.

The lambs had spied an open gate onto the road and took flight for Llantwit Major town centre. However, Andrea made the concert in my absence.

Sunday September 23 found us at St Dochdwy's Church, Llandough to attend the Civic Service for the chairman of Llandough Community Council at the invitation of the chairman himself, Coun RF Collier.

All in all, it was a very busy, but privileged and enjoyable nine days representing the borough and acting as an ambassador for Cowbridge and Llanblethian.

After at three-day break on Thursday September 27, we were off again: first a morning meeting at the town hall to finalise arrangements for the coming Remembrance Sunday service at the cenotaph, followed by the service at Holy Cross Church. I do hope lots of you readers will join us at the town hall to pay your respects to those who died for us.

Meeting over, chores attended to, then an evening of music – this time at The Pier Head building in Cardiff Bay to attend the Music in the Vale concert.

MitV is an organisation that gives rising stars from the locality the opportunity to showcase their talents before a real live audience, and what exciting talent we have coming through for the future. Look out for the coming Music in the Vale competition dates at Cowbridge Comprehensive School for a good night out.

Saturday saw not one, but three functions! It was down to Barry for 10am to the re-dedication of the Seafarers' monument outside the Civic Offices, led by the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Eric Hacker.

Wreaths laid, tributes paid and respect acknowledged, it was on to the Barry Memorial Hall for the annual Seafarers' service; then back home to carry two more loads of hay, feed and check the stock on the farm, see the safe arrival into the world of one beautiful heifer calf, then back home again to change for another visit to Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, and the final concert of the Cowbridge Music Festival.

A full church awaited, video screens in place so all could get a good view, and we were beguiled by the extraordinary genius of Llyr Williams, Welsh concert pianist of world fame.

To see his fingers cover the keyboard with a speed and precision only a handful of musicians worldwide could ever hope to achieve, enchanting us with renditions such as Schubert's 'Piano Sonata in A Minor', Brahms' 'Fantasien op 116 for piano' and Chopin's Ballade No4'.

But the piece that certainly excited myself and my fellow members of the audience was performance of Chopin's 'Fantasy in F Minor' – absolutely breathtaking!

Congratulations to Mary and her team for all their hard work and we now look forward to the 2013 Cowbridge Music Festival

Sunday carried two more loads of hay before picking up Andrea and making our way to Llantwit for the Civic Service of the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Eric Hacker.

That just about brings you up to date with my diary for the past two weeks. I hope it gives an insight into just a part of the Mayoral duties – and as for whether I enjoy it or not, could anyone not enjoy such wonderful privileges?

Just one final reminder. Do come and visit us in the Mayor's Parlour at the town hall for coffee and cakes this Saturday October 6, from 10am - 12.30pm.

Entry is free to all, but donations of your own choice invited, for the Mayor's charity 2012, Ty Hafan Children's Hospice. Everyone welcome.

Both Andrea and I will look forward to meeting you if you wish to drop in; and there is always the opportunity to visit the town hall museum with its ancient prison cells full of interesting and historic artefacts at the same time.

COUN NICOLA THOMAS
Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian

'Willow weaving for the birds'

BONT FAEN WI NEWS

FOLLOWING a break for the summer, recommenced activities by undertaking a circular walk of Colwinston, which gave an the opportunity to 'climb' over different stiles in the vicinity.

Our speakers this month were Mel and Claire, who not only provided a short history of willow weaving, but demonstrated the technique and we all went home with our own 'bird feeder'; although there were none the same, I am sure the birds in the local area will appreciate them!

We were pleased to welcome a number of guests to our meeting and delighted that two signed up on the night.

We hope the other guests enjoyed themselves and will return next month when the speaker will talk about Wildlife and the Environment on October 18 at 8pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge.

Our social event for October will be on the following Thursday, October 25 when we are going to attend the local cinema in the Town Hall.

We will finish off the month by joining up with our Link WIs in Ystradowen Hall, this time organised by Llanharry WI, an event we are looking forward to.

The craft group is busy planning our contribution to the Christmas Tree festival at Holy Cross and we are looking forward to a social gathering in November when we will complete the decorations.

As you can tell, with local events and Federation events to attend we are a busy and active WI branch!

Come and join us – you will be most welcome on the third Thursday of the month (8pm, Lesser Hall, Cowbridge. **JJ**

Over-55 club

LLANTWIT MAJOR over-55 club has had a particularly active few weeks.

The next trip is planned to Carmarthen and the Gwili steam railway.

Tuesday evenings meetings have included an interesting talk and slides by Mike Wilcock on his DJ days at Morecambe in the '60s era.

We have a varied programme arranged up until Christmas. If you are aged 55 plus, we will be pleased to see you and make you welcome. We meet at 6.45pm and finish at 8.30 (ish). Transport can be arranged at a reasonable cost.

If you require further details, contact 01656890680 or 01446 794257. **PG**

Choir is looking for a piano player

LLANHARAN RFC Songsters require the services of an accompanist and the choir is under threat if they can't find a replacement accompanist.

Long-serving accompanist, Marian Evans, announced at the beginning of the year that it is her intention to retire after Christmas, after 34 years with the choir.

A choir spokesman said: "Marian started with us when she was a young teacher at Brynna Primary School. The late Tudor Benjamin was headteacher of the school and also conductor of the Songsters.

"Tudor persuaded Marian to 'keep practices going between one accompanist finishing and another starting'. Five months changed to 34 years in a flash.

"Marian enjoys the humorous banter at practices, but maintains complete respect from the choristers and the conductor. She has developed her skills at the piano and plays a big part in adapting music to suit the balance of the choir."

He continued: "Like many other choirs, we have lost choristers over the past few years but thanks to a nucleus of long-standing members and a small influx of new, we have been able to maintain a good standard for our performances.

"We also need choristers, and we practise at the Llanharan Rugby Club on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm until 9.30pm. Anyone interested in accompanying the choir or joining in as choristers can find out more by contacting Emrys on 01443 226554 or Marian on 01656 860307. " **EE**

Penllyn bridge

PENLLYN Bridge Club results for September were as follows:

Thursday, September 6 (17 pairs) - first: Julia Evans & Diana Lewis 63.93%; second: Mary Wallis & Glenda Roberts 60.36%; third: Alban & Gwenyth Wilde 56.43%.

Thursday, September 13 (18 pairs) - first: Marion & David Stephenson 67.61%; joint second: Ann Richards & Allan Evans; Helen & Mike Ruttley 58.24%.

Thursday, September 20 (20 pairs) - first: Catherine Domican & John Hunter 56.82% ; second: Gill Harding & Rita Williams 56.06%; third: Sally Kennedy & Anne Jones 55.81%.

Thursday, September 27 (6th round of the Robert Brown Cup competition, 14 pairs) - first: Mansel Thomas & Mike Baron 56.82%; second: Mary & Keith Price 55.3%; joint third: Jo Ilsley & John Lord; Alban & Gwenyth Wilde 54.92% **CN**

Community college holds an international language fiesta

ON Wednesday, September 19, a lunchtime language fiesta event was organised by Cowbridge Community College and its language tutors in Spanish, Welsh, Greek, German, Italian and French.

There was food to try from the different countries such as courgette and gruyere filo pie, paella, Welsh cakes etc, as well as coffee and biscuits for the visitors and sweets for the children.

There was the opportunity to learn to play games, such as backgammon, to try activities in the various languages (such as matching photos of food items with their Spanish word) or quizzes relating to the different countries.

There was also a selection of language books from the popular Cowbridge library next door to the college and an opportunity to talk with the tutors about the content of their classes.

ABOVE: Alexia Mei teaches Greek and Greek and Mediterranean cookery.

To add to the international atmosphere, there was language fiesta bunting in different colours, music, country flags, a Mexican piñata, brought by one of the Spanish teachers who is from Mexico, and other items to bring as much of the European colour as possible to our local town.

The event was held in the gardens behind the college and was supported by lovely sunny weather.

A variety of locals and visitors stopped by to taste the cuisine of different European countries and to share their experiences from trips to these countries in the past, either on holiday, visiting friends or while serving in the armed forces.

It was fascinating for tutors to hear all these different stories and experiences and this made the event worthwhile.

ALEXIA MEI

Perla Kirkham, who teaches Spanish.

Catherine Bennion, who teaches Welsh.

Nonie Hempson, who teaches Spanish

Cowbridge clergyman pays visit back to his old parish

ABOVE: The Bishop blessing the shores of the Isle of Man.

THIS Sunday, a Cowbridge clergyman, who has risen to the office of Bishop, returns to his old parish to preach at a special service.

On Sunday, October 7, at 10am in Holy Cross Church, Bishop Robert Paterson will preside and preach at an All-Parish Concelebrated Eucharist.

Canon Derek Belcher, the Rector of Cowbridge, said: "This special service will mark out a time of renewal of the life of the parish.

"Bishop Robert is a family man with a vision for the life of the Church. He was previously Team Rector from 1994 until 2000 in Cowbridge, and then Principal Officer of the Church in Wales Council for Mission and Ministry until 2006.

"He was appointed chaplain and researcher to the Archbishop of York in 2006, and was then nominated as the next Bishop of Sodor and Man (the Isle of Man) in 2008."

Bishop Robert said: "Pauline and I are delighted to have been invited to Cowbridge by Canon Derek Belcher for this special parish service. The Rectorial Benefice has been around for nearly two decades and it is encouraging to know that it is thriving and in good heart.

"It will be good to see many that we knew from our time in the parish."

Canon Derek said: "From October of this year, until the end of 2013, the parish of Cowbridge is celebrating a Year of Faith.

"This programme of events is meant to interest anyone searching for spiritual meaning in their lives ,and exploring the interface between Faith and Reason.

"This approach will be developed through the themes of Renewal, Pilgrimage, Witness, Mission and Stewardship.

"This special service follows Archbishop Barry Morgan's lecture last Tuesday (October 2) in Holy Cross on the poems of RS Thomas.

"The aim of this Year of Faith is to help to open avenues of enquiry into Faith and Reason. This is an invitation to anyone to join with us and explore where they see themselves in relation to an understanding of God.

"As Christians, we believe that the Church is there both to worship God through His Son Jesus and for other people.

Details of other events can be obtained by visiting Holy Cross Church, by contacting the Parish Office on 01446 772302 or emailing office@cowbridgeparish.co.uk

ABOVE: Bishop Robert Paterson and his wife Pauline.

Cowbridge Radio is ready for big launch at local food festival

BRAINWAVE of year-9 pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Cowbridge Radio is looking towards this month's Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival as a launchpad to help the online station grow.

Broadcasting live from the bedrooms of the DJs, Cowbridge Radio has been online since the summer.

Now, it wants presenters and enthusiasts of all ages from the area to come on board and give Cowbridge a radio station they can be proud of.

The station is available 24-hours-a-day. It provides two live shows in the evening, which increases at weekends, and has an auto-DJ broadcasting the rest of the time.

The station will also use the festival to perform its first live outdoor broadcast, with local bands performing live at the 'fringe food' (second) site.

Tom Davis, who came up with the idea of the station with friends Ollie Forse and Will Durrant, spoke to The GEM about how far they have come, and what they hope to do going forward.

He said: "We all listened to online radio stations and decided to set one up. This is all run off our own backs. I have a studio in my house, so we broadcast a lot from there.

"But we have the equipment to run it off laptops at home, so anybody with the equipment can broadcast from their own house.

"We want anyone who would like to get involved to come forward. We can pair them up with people who have the equipment to broadcast live shows. We can train them and help them get the equipment they need.

"As we grow, the variety of shows will increase. We want a local sports show, and local music shows. We want an unsigned show where local bands can send in their music and get played."

Looking forward to the food festival, Tom is hoping to get the station further in to the public eye.

He added: "As we were some kids broadcasting over the summer we didn't really have a big launch. We're treating this as our second launch and hope to drum up support by broadcasting live from the event on the day."

They already have a live cooking show with Steve Bell of Kookie's Kitchen in Cowbridge lined up, which started this Tuesday (October 2) and will broadcast every Tuesday between 5pm and 7pm. They hope that other local people and businesses will get involved to help their show-base grow.

Steve Bell said that it was the prospect of having a local radio station that was useful for Cowbridge and the surrounding area that made him want to get involved.

He told The GEM: "This is a really good advert for the young people of Cowbridge. People should definitely get involved as the idea of a local station is fantastic.

"I like a mixture of music and features, and I like to know what's on in town, events, clubs, issues – these will appeal to listeners.

"I saw they posted on Facebook looking for presenters. I asked if they wanted a food-related show and they jumped on it.

"Because of the initial young demographic we will be making food that appeals to them. It's simple, you can make it from fresh and most of the ingredients you can pick up in Cowbridge.

"We'll see what response they get and we'll go forward from there."

Cowbridge Radio want anyone with a desire to get involved to come forward with ideas for shows. To get involved with the project, email: tom@cowbridgeradio.co.uk, or to simply listen to the station, visit: www.cowbridgeradio.co.uk.

LEIGH GRUFFYD SANDERS

Dogs Trust in search for local bright young photographers

DOGS TRUST is today announcing the launch of its 2012 Junior Canine Carer competition with a nationwide search for the best photo capturing 'A Dog's Day'.

The UK's largest dog welfare charity, which has a centre in Bridgend, is urging budding photographers aged seven to 13 to get snapping to be in with a chance of winning a top of the range Pentax camera and a behind-the-scenes, hands-on day at their nearest Dogs Trust rehoming centre.

"With most children now very 'au fait' with using a camera and able to add all sorts of effects to even the simplest of pictures, Dogs Trust is challenging young kids to flex their fingers and creative minds to zoom in on life as a dog."

Clarissa Baldwin, Dogs Trust CEO, said: "We wanted to give children a chance to capture the fun that dogs can bring to our lives. We can't wait to see what images are captured and imagine the stories they could tell!

"We have seen through our extensive education campaign that there are many passionate young dog lovers.

"We created the Junior Canine Carer competition as a way to give children a chance to have a hand in helping the dogs in our care and learn more about the work we carry out."

If you think you have what it takes to be a Dogs Trust Junior canine carer for a day and would like to enter the competition, simply take a picture of your dog (or a friend or family member's dog) going about his or her normal day with a short caption.

You can send your photo one of three ways; by post to Dogs Trust, Junior Canine Carer competition, 17 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7RQ (please note that we are unable to return photos); by email: juniorcanine carer@dogstrust.org.uk or why not upload your picture onto the Dogs Trust Junior Canine Carer album on www.flickr.com/groups/jcc2012.

You have until December 1 to enter, so snap away!

Organ Festival running through the weekend

ST PETER'S CHURCH presents the Peterston Organ Festival 2012 until October 14, with all evening concerts taking place at 7.30pm.

Tonight, October 4, 16-year-old Welsh harpist Benjamin Creighton Griffiths will be the star.

This recital is free, but there will be a collection to help contribute towards festival costs. The concert starts at 7.30pm.

On Friday, October 5, 'Baroquenroll' will be the entertainment.

Through a programme spanning centuries, they present highly charged performances of Baroque masterpieces and virtuoso showstoppers in a variety of 20th Century and contemporary styles – with some wholly original work thrown in for good measure.

This recital is also free, but there will be a collection to help contribute towards festival costs. The concert starts at 7.30pm.

On October 6, there will be a celebrity organ recital with Dr Gordon Stewart, complete with a large screen to watch him play.

Gordon was born in Scotland and is one of Britain's best-known organists. For 15 years, he worked in cathedral music, first in Manchester and then in Blackburn.

This is a ticketed recital and will cost £10 – which includes a glass of champagne and canapés. Tickets are available in advance only from the village store. The concert starts at 7.30pm.

Enjoy an evening drink before and after each concert at a licenced bar, open every evening from 6.30pm-9.30pm.

Then, on Sunday, October 14, there will be a festival thanksgiving service at 10.45am.

St Peter's Church Choir will lead the service. From 10am, come and see how a choir rehearsal runs – and don't worry, you won't be asked to sing!

The music featured in this service will be parts of the Mozart Spatzen Messe and Parry's 'I was Glad'.

The choir is directed by James Bull, and the organ will be played by Dr Gordon Stewart.

This will be followed by coffee and cake.

James Bull
festival director

Sister's tribute to her brother

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sally is running with her husband Tim, a 42-year-old promotions director for the BBC, and his older brother, Simon, to raise funds for the Cardiomyopathy Association.

Sally told The GEM: "In his teens, Neil was a top class, long distance runner, representing Aberystwyth Running Club and Wales, and he won a sports scholarship to an American university.

"When he died he was a cinematographer, still living in America with his wife Elizabeth and two-year-old daughter Millie. His Welsh running club has created the Neil Lisk Memorial Shield to commemorate him."

She continued: "I couldn't think of a more fitting tribute than to run a half-marathon in his memory.

"He was a truly wonderful bloke, loved by all he knew. His are very large running shoes to fill, but I know he'll be cheering me on, wherever he is."

Sally, who enjoys cycling and walking, has been training for the half marathon for a few months now, with a target time of two hours.

Cardiomyopathy affects people of all ages, including babies, and is often inherited.

This means that Sally and her two other brothers will have regular heart scans to ensure they remain well.

Sally is also keen for her two young children to be tested, when they are old enough.

To sponsor Sally, visit www.virginmoneygiv ing.com/SallyLisk-Lewis

On 6th Oct for 1 day only we will be closed at Ty Verlon Ind Est

You can get your bead fix by joining us on 6th & 7th Oct 2012 at The Craft and Hobby Show at Cardiff City Stadium, Leckwith, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4.

Be the first to see our new High Quality Polaris bead range and the new Elegance Jewellery Kits

FREE demos on the stand of Fimo, The Elegance Kits, Wire Work and Kumihimo

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www.boxesandbusts.co.uk
Unit 19, Ty Verlon Ind est, Barry, CF63 2BE
or ring 01446 701230. HRS: Mon-Sat 9am-4pm

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Wow! Deals

Monday 1st October 2012 - Sunday 7th October 2012

ALL OFFERS AVAILABLE FROM 1ST OCTOBER – 7TH OCTOBER 2012

FiLCO Supermarkets

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Why not visit one of our other stores, offers will vary throughout stores.

Taibach, Cowbridge, Sarn, Bryntirion, Caerau, North Cornelly, Talbot Green, Maesteg, Llantwit Major

Filco Supermarkets, 19 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, CF61 1XZ

01446 792286

Exciting times unfold at St Brides Major Primary School

ON Friday October 5, St Brides Major Primary School will officially open its new foundation phase area.

The school were fortunate to receive a Welsh Government grant to complete this first phase which has completely transformed the foundation phase area of the school. More space has been created both indoor and outdoor and the pupils are already enjoying their new learning environment.

Headteacher Clare Matthews is delighted with the new extension. She said: "It has made such a difference to the foundation phase and to the school as a whole. The children are able to access the curriculum in a learning environment where they have the space and facilities that they deserve.

"We are grateful to all those who have been involved in the project including The Welsh Government and Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority. We have also had wonderful support from the parents and local community. Everyone is looking forward to working on the next phase."

The renovation of the foundation phase area of the school is now complete.

The school are already fundraising for the next phase of the redevelopment, which will transform the hall and central area of the school.

For more information, or if you would like to get involved with the fundraising, contact the headteacher on 01656 880477. **CM**

FAMOUS ARTIST'S VISIT

Above (left to right): Ken Young, Liz Stokes, Derek Morgan, Andrew Vicari.

The branch has recently received the Media Award Rose Bowl.

Photos by HEATHER MARCH

Internationally-renowned Welsh artist, Andrew Vicari, was the latest speaker at the Literary lunch of the south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union.

He was delighted to find that among the guests were Liz Stokes, whom he knew in Llancarfan long before he achieved world wide prominence, and Ken Young, who had been in the same form at Neath Grammar School, now living in Penarth.

Andrew pursued the theme that art has become an absurd concept and no longer has substance, and was particularly critical of such items as unmade beds and pickled sharks.

Speaking at the AGM before lunch, branch chairman, Derek Morgan thanked members for their enthusiastic support which has resulted in the south Wales Branch becoming the second largest after London.

The branch had also won the Media Award Rose Bowl, with regular photos in The GEM being of special note.

The next event is the Christmas party on December 6 at Howell's School, Llandaff, with carols from the senior school choir, greetings from Roy Noble, and a festive supper.

Details from Derek Morgan on 01656 669129, e-mail derekmorgan@admorgan.fsnet.co.uk.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Top wine merchants to bring new delights to local drinkers

BRITAIN'S Best Wine Merchant 2012 (IWC) The Oxford Wine Company have collaborated with Simon and Matthew Hunt of RB's, Cowbridge, to bring a unique, award-winning range of wines to Cowbridge.

These new wines stocked at RB's are listed in many of the top independent wine merchants across the UK with a specific focus on London. They cannot be found in the national multiples Tesco, Waitrose, Morrison's, etc.

Since 2010, the Oxford Wine Company have supplied a number of award-winning restaurants in Wales. They have been trading for more than 21 years in Oxford, and supply many award-winning hotels and restaurants in Oxford and London.

Working with RB's is the first time that a small selection of these special wines are available to Vale wine drinkers. The Oxford Wine Company have more than 4,000 different wines and 1,000 spirits, and is no stranger to the Vale currently supplying a number of award-winning restaurants in the area such as The Bush Inn, St Hilary.

The range of 40-plus different wines include new grape varietals, vineyards, countries and old and new French appellations. The range starts from £7 to £15 and is not available anywhere else in Wales.

The range has been selected by Charles Reardon Smith ASWSET (Advanced Standard Wine and Spirits Educational Trust), Marcia Waters MW (Master of Wine) and Neil Gladding (Director OWC) of the Oxford Wine Company, working with Simon and Matthew Hunt (RB's and Filco) to offer a new range different from those sold currently.

The range was tested at the Filco store during the National Eisteddfod in Llandow this summer. Charles is no stranger to Cowbridge wine drinkers, having served and sampled wine at the family restaurant Off The Beeton Track during the 1980s (now the Thai Elephant).

Simon Hunt of RB's said: "This is a new chapter at RB's. We want to offer our customers great value on a modern wine collection to suit our new customers' tastes and those on tight budgets.

"We will continue to offer the lowest possible prices on all our products, with an emphasis on sourcing great wines at the cheapest prices, plus offer this unique range to excite seasoned wine drinkers who are after something new."

Marcia Waters, MW, Oxford Wine Company, said: "We want Vale drinkers to find new wines to enjoy at home. Unlike the supermarkets, we blind taste every wine to ensure each is the best.

"We have taken many years to find these wines, mostly from small vineyards and passionate growers – we offer different tastes, grape varieties which suit the adventurous, discerning, and conservative wine drinker."

Charles Reardon Smith said: "As a local to Cowbridge, I am pleased to collaborate with RB's and will support local initiatives which improve standards. I have been involved with the Food and Drink festival 2012.

" The Festival this year will allow wine drinkers a chance to sample wines costing many £100's and learn a little about each. The majority of these will be available only at RB's."

The Oxford Wine Company are working with the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival to allow attendees to taste many champagnes, whiskys and wines at little or no cost to attendees. They will also find out from each grower a little background on how each is produced.

Unique wines include one of the best Portuguese wines, Ciconia Tinto, Herdade de São Miguel, Shiraz/Tempranillo, Alentejo, Portugal (silver medal best Portuguese reds 2012); rose wines from vineyards owned by Brad Pitt: Château Miraval Pink Floyd, Côtes de Provence Rosé, France; new Chilean wines from Aconcagua Valley: In Situ Winemaker's Selection Chardonnay, Aconcagua Valley, Chile; new grape varieties and areas: Domaine de Poujol Blanc, Pico, Vieilles Vignes, Pays de l'Hérault (Carignan Blanc, Vermentino, Roussanne white grapes); new French regions: Domaine de Sedouprat, Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon, Côtes de Gascogne; and forgotten Pinots: Caves de Cléebourg Pinot Gris, Alsace.

Vote on 'Rural Oscars'

THE eighth annual Countryside Alliance Awards are now open to public nomination, and Alun Cairns MP is urging the local community in the Vale to get nominating.

The Countryside Alliance Awards, nicknamed the 'Rural Oscars' were borne of a need to support and promote rural communities. They celebrate people going the extra mile to ensure that rural Britain's food and farming industry, and most of all, its people, can flourish.

Mr Cairns commented: "These awards are an excellent way to promote the local businessmen and women who are working hard to keep rural Britain ticking.

"Previous nominees from the Vale include Slade Farm Organics at Southerndown, Vic Hopkins Family Butcher in Barry and Roe-Fall Poultry and Game Dealers in Cowbridge – all excellent examples of the high standards of producers that we can boast locally."

For more information and to nominate your local producer visit www.countrysidealliancewards.org

COWBRIDGE HISTORY GROUPS JOIN FORCES

COWBRIDGE'S two history societies are to join forces.

This will happen over the next 12 months and the Cowbridge and District Local History (CDLHS) will merge with the Cowbridge Record Society (CRS).

A spokesman said: "The former society was largely devoted to the presentation of lectures and talks on historical topics, and to organising outings to local historical sites, while the latter was concerned with research and publication.

"While CDLHS is of long standing, having been founded in the 1970s, CRS emerged out of extramural classes originally run by the late Jeff Alden.

"Over the intervening years, considerable overlap in membership has occurred, and both societies have approved the merger, and the name of the new society will be the Cowbridge History Society (CHS).

" This will retain the charitable status of CRS but will have a new managing committee.

"It will keep the best features of the two founding societies, with a programme of talks between October and May and will support publication of locally-based research.

"It will also take responsibility for the Local History Study Room in Old Hall, staffed by Betty Alden and her colleagues. Already it has published its first newsletter under editor Deborah Fisher.

"Two presidents will head the new organisation, Rev Norman Williams and Brian James, both stalwarts in the study of local history in Cowbridge and the Vale.

"All that now remains is for the two groups to be formally merged at the beginning of the new financial year in April 2013."

He continued: "Like all local societies CHS will depend upon volunteers for its success, from organising its talks, providing refreshments, collecting material relevant to local history and for publishing.

"In this sphere, CHS is fortunate in having in place a dedicated band, but any community-based society depends on its members – and CHS does need to increase its numbers.

"Below is a list of the talks to be given between now and Christmas. Why not come along on the first Friday in the month to the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm and join us? Membership is £7.50 a year.

"If you are interested in archiving local historical material, Betty Alden would be pleased to see you on a Wednesday morning in Old Hall (01446 77373) *bettyalden1@gmail.com* . If research and publication is your main interest, contact Deborah Fisher (01656 659286) or *debc.fisher@gmail.com.*

"Programme details from Dick Tonkin (01446 772704) or *dicktonkin@btinternet.com.* Any further details can be obtained from the acting chair of CHS Dick Buswell (01446 771929) *profbuswell@onetel.com.*"

October 5, *'Iolo and the Celtic crosses of Llantwit Major', a talk by Brian Davies (note this meeting is preceded by the last AGM of CDLHS at 7pm.*

November 2 *– 'GI involvement in South Wales' by Glenn Booker.*

December 7 *– 'The slate barons of north Wales' by Gwerfyl Gardner (followed by mince pies and wine).*

Local Lions Club: diabetes screening

THE Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club have organised one of their regular diabetes screening sessions in the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major this Saturday, October 6.

The session is carried out by fully qualified nurses and is completely confidential. Results will be given to you on the day and advice provided by the diabetes team on what to do next.

The sessions start at 10am and continue through to 12.30pm.

The tests are free of charge and are part of the Lions Clubs International public health programme.

Tickets for sale for the choir concert the Lions are holding in St Illtud's Church on October 13 by the Caldicot Male Voice Choir.

For more information about Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club, visit their web site at www.lmandclions.org.uk or on facebook at www.facebook.com/lmanclions or telephone 0845-83336763.

David Edwards

Coffee at the opticians!

The coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Care at Chris Williams Optometrists raised £350.

ON Friday September 28, Chris Williams Optometrists in Llantwit Major held a very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning raising the amazing amount of £350.

Homemade cakes were supplied by Margaret and Sharon and coffee was served by Julie and Dannii.

We would like to thank the Co-op supermarket for their support and also thank you to all who attended and donated so generously! SG

Local MP's accusation of 'broken' election promise is disputed by the Vale Coalition

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

A POLITICAL row has broken out after the Vale Conservative MP, Alun Cairns, accused Labour of reneging on a campaign promise to "scrap the Local Development Plan" (LDP).

However, Coun Lis Burnett, the Vale Council cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation, responded by saying that a new and amended LDP would soon be unveiled and that therefore, the previous one had, in effect, been scrapped.

On April 26, just before the May council elections, Labour took a full page advertisement in The GEM, which included the statement "*Labour will Scrap the LDP and consult to produce a sustainable alternative*".

Alun Cairns told The GEM that he always regarded this as electioneering. He went looking for a 'smoking gun' by asking the Welsh Assembly, via a Freedom of Information (FoI) request, for details of discussions concerning the Vale LDP between the Vale Council and Assembly officers.

He now insists that the document he received, dated August 6, showed that Labour never intended to scrap the LDP, pointing to the fact that it included this phrase, written by Assembly officers taking minutes of the meeting: *There was no desire to start the LDP process again, rather the issue was refinement of the current plan.* Elsewhere in the document, it says: *It would appear that the new administration has specific issues regarding certain aspects of the plan, linked to pledges made during the recent elections. There appears to be a desire to make changes to the plan. While not wholesale, the issue is whether the 'Focused Changes' stage in the plan preparation can accommodate such changes.*

Mr Cairns claimed: "The revelation of this document shows that Labour's promise before the local elections was completely hollow.

"It has tarnished their credibility – something that will be difficult to recover from."

He continued: "I received hundreds of complaints about the LDP and this will have been significant to the way people voted in the elections.

"I have no doubt that many traditional supporters of all parties will have voted Labour on the basis of their promise.

"Residents across the Vale, from Barry, to Wick and Rhoose to Ystradowen will feel cheated and let down.

"This was the central plank of Labour's local election campaign. It is difficult to believe, after all they said, that they have told the Welsh Government that they only want to make 'focused changes' and that they are happy with broad proposals."

Coun Lis Burnett countered by saying that there had been discussions involving council officers and their Assembly counterparts between the election in May and August 6. These discussions had established, she said, that certain parts of the LDP were so advanced that changes could not be made.

She said: "There are areas where planning permission for housing, for instance, has already been granted."

Coun Burnett said Barry Waterfront was a prime example of this, and that going back to square one was not possible.

She explained: "However, we are in the final stages now, and will be bringing a new LDP to the scrutiny committee in November."

She said that the process underpinning the previous LDP had been examined and had been found to be flawed, and the new version would address these.

She said: "The previous administration had allocated a consultation period of only six weeks, the language used was inaccessible to the public, and the process for residents to make their comments was also inaccessible.

"When the new LDP is released for consultation, that consultation will take place over a much longer period.

"Personally, I will go anywhere in the Vale to talk to people about it when the plan is presented."

Alun Cairns did have some sympathy for the current administration – as well as the previous Conservative one – saying that the root of the problem lay with the number of new dwellings demanded by the Welsh Government.

He said: "The Welsh Government's insistence on the LDP was so strong, I knew that it was going to be difficult to reduce their housing target.

"In fairness to the former council administration, they were merely acting on direction from the Welsh Government.

"They paid a heavy political price on the opportunistic actions of the Labour Party, which have now been proven to be untrue."

There is, at least, general agreement on the number of new houses that must be included in the plan. Labour members have said that too many have to be allocated, particularly in the eastern Vale.

This view is shared by Plaid Cymru. Coun Chris Franks said recently: "Across Wales, communities are horrified by unrealistic housing targets and a lack of investment in public transport, schools and roads.

"We know that 2,000 houses have already been approved in Barry, but no one believes that the infrastructure can cope with another 8,000 houses and the associated traffic."

One thing is clear, however, and that is that the Conservatives are determined to make the charge of reneging on that campaign promise a big issue.

Only last week, at a meeting of the full council, Coun Rhodri Traherne asked Coun Lis Burnett the following question: "In your discussions with the Welsh Government, could you confirm whether or not you have discussed scrapping the LDP?"

In response, Coun Burnett replied, "Yes, we have discussed scrapping the LDP with the Welsh Government".

In the end, it could all come down to the definition of the word 'scrapping'.

Remembrance Sunday meeting

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S annual Remembrance Day Service will take place on Sunday, November 11, at the Town Square Cenotaph at 11 am.

The assembly point for the parade will be the rugby club car park at 10.15 am.

A briefing meeting will be held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, October 9 at 7.30pm and all interested parties are invited to attend.

Any organisation intending to lay a wreath can collect the relevant order form from the Town Hall.

Coffee morning

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword, is hosting a coffee morning in the Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, October 9 from 10.30am-12 noon.

All proceeds will go to the Cadoxton WI, in aid of Ty Hapus.

Resurfacing work at Port Road, Barry

WITH reference to Darren Weaver's letter in last week's GEM, I can confirm that the condition of Port Road is something that the Vale Council is aware of.

The housing developer responsible for the new Golwg Y Coed development on Pencoedtre Lane, off Port Road, will be undertaking a schedule of resurfacing works each evening from 6pm-11:30pm from Monday, October 15 to Friday, October 19.

I should point out that all resurfacing works are, of course, subject to change due to weather conditions; however, this is the schedule which is currently in place.

As part of the scheduled works, Port Road will be resurfaced for approximately 280 metres at the junction with Pencoedtre Lane, in addition to the section of the lane leading to the new housing development.

Improvement works had been delayed while ongoing issues with public utilities to the housing development were resolved.

This aspect is now complete, and so resurfacing works can commence on the dates detailed above.

Once the new road surface has been laid, the road height will increase in order to match the new kerbs at the crossing points on this stretch of the road.

This will make the cycleway easily negotiable for cyclists in the future.

Ken Evans
(Senior Highway Maintenance Engineer)

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Is the Welsh Government doing enough to support our local businesses?

A SURVEY of small to medium business owners in the Vale, conducted on behalf of the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, has revealed just 6.9 per cent of business owners believe that the Welsh Government is doing enough to support small to medium sized enterprises in Wales.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A total of 119 local businesses responded to the survey.

The Conservatives claimed almost 9 in 10 (87.1 per cent) said that more could be done by the Welsh Government to stimulate growth in the economy.

The Conservatives also claimed that 20 per cent of local businesses surveyed had been offered support by the Welsh Government, with more than a quarter of those who had (27 per cent) feeling that the experience was poor or very poor. They say respondents felt the process of applying for business support was complicated by excessive red tape and bureaucracy.

Mr Davies said: "These alarming findings will concern a First Minister whose government already have a reputation for lethargy.

"Vale businesses are being let down by a lack of support from the Welsh Government, and by a system of support that is too complicated and overwhelmed by red tape and regulation."

Businesses were asked to describe their experiences applying to the Welsh Government for support, with 11.2 per cent of respondents having done so. A total of 61.6 per cent of those were happy with the support they were eventually offered, but many felt that the process was too complicated and time-consuming.

Several respondents complained of having to employ consultants to help with application forms, while one Penarth-based business complained that civil servants were doing "everything possible to tie you up in red tape".

The survey also asked local businesses to outline what action they would like to see from the Welsh Government to stimulate growth in the local economy.

Of the 119 businesses who had responded by early September, 33 called for better access to grants and financial support; 21 wanted reduced red tape; 19 cited extending business rate relief as a top priority; and 16 called for better communication of existing packages of support.

Mr Davies said: "This feedback clearly demonstrates that the Welsh Government has the levers at its disposal to support businesses in the Vale through these difficult economic times, and underlines how important community engagement of this kind is.

"The Welsh Conservatives remain committed to abolishing business rates for all small businesses, slashing red tape, and to ensuring that Wales becomes a business friendly nation."

• ***The GEM contacted the Welsh Government which chose not to respond to the survey.***

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Spanish flights boost for Cardiff Airport

HOT on the heels of the news from Welsh First Minister, Carwyn Jones, that Cardiff Airport will be rebranded and refreshed ahead of the 2013 summer season, Vueling, Spain's leading low fare airline, has announced a new direct route between the Welsh capital and Malaga.

It will commence on April 2 next year.

Vueling started operations from Cardiff earlier this year with direct flights to Barcelona, Palma and Alicante, operated by Airbus A320 aircraft for the summer season.

"We have been delighted with the success of our Cardiff routes," Vueling CEO Alex Cruz said.

"The introduction of Malaga to our Cardiff network underlines our faith in this regional airport and further demonstrates our commitment to deliver low fares in the UK beyond London."

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She really enjoys a game of chase in the field with her friends, followed by a lovely cuddle and some quality time with her carer, Kim.

She is a bright young girl, and enjoys learning new tricks (if there is a treat involved of course!).

Laura could live with another dog, and is suitable with older children. Please visit te Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG or call on 01656 725219.

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Clean-up is under way in Tre-Dodridge following an oil spill

ABOVE: The site of the oil spillage – workers were removing contaminated soil.

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ABOVE: A boom placed on the Nant Tre-Dodridge stream, which will absorb any oil that has seeped onto the surface.

A clean-up is under way in the village of Tre-Dodridge, following an oil spill.

An Environment Agency spokesperson told The GEM: "Our officers attended the site on September 27 and September 28.

"We believe that a quantity of heating oil from a domestic property has leaked and contaminated the ground and highway in Tre-Dodridge.

"We are currently overseeing the clean-up work, including checking the affected land for contamination, monitoring local water courses in the area in case of possible water pollution, and ensuring any contaminated soil is dealt with appropriately."

Residents of Tre-Dodridge first witnessed a flurry of activity last Thursday night when three fire engines and a number of other vehicles were called to the incident in the road between Tre-Dodridge and the road leading to the village of Welsh St Donats.

Tony McCarthy, who has lived in Tre-Dodridge all his life, informed The GEM: "Waking up next morning, it was obvious that some kind of incident involving the loss of oil had happened, as there was an odour of heating oil at the bottom of the village, with booms placed along much of the road that has since been closed to the public.

"At risk was the Nant Tre-Dodridge stream that flows through the hamlet of Tre-Dodridge directly into the River Ely.

"But thanks to the swift action of the emergency services and staff of a local-based oil spill response company, what could have been a local environmental disaster was averted.

"The company was able to draft trained staff to the private dwelling situated on a hill overlooking Tre-Dodridge and immediately put into operation procedures which prevented oil from travelling towards the stream located half a mile away.

"Unfortunately, the road through Tre-Dodridge which is used by many Vale residents as a short cut to the M4 motorway, is likely to remain closed for some time until the clean-up operation is completed."

Tony emphasised that residents of Tre-Dodridge were grateful for the support and dedication of everyone involved in the clean- up operation and for preventing the little tributary from being contaminated.

Road closed in Tre-Dodridge.

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St Owain's Church provides a Harvest gift to food bank

LEFT: St Owain's Church, Ystradowen celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving by supporting the 'Foodbank' at Bethel Baptist Centre in Pontyclun.

Church members and villagers filled the church with non-perishable items of food, which will be taken to the Foodbank and distributed to the people in crisis.

At the service, children from the Sunday school presented their offerings to Rev Martyn Perry. Sue Squire on(left) and Shena Sarjeant wish to thank all those involved and who generously donated.

Missing from the picture are Terry and Averil Mayor, who helped to take the food to the church for distribution. Photograph by RUSSELL THOMPSON

Petition handed over at Senedd

ABOVE: Haf Elgar and Gareth Clubb, Friends of the Earth Cymru, William Powell AM, chair of the petitions committee of the National Assembly for Wales, and Russell George AM, a member of the petitions committee.

FRIENDS of the Earth Cymru joined the campaign against fracking in the Vale – when the organisation handed in a petition to the Assembly on Tuesday (October 2).

The Vale is in the limelight at the moment because of strong opposition by local campaigners to plans for exploratory drilling near Llandow.

They fear that this could lead to a fracking application.

The petition calls for the Assembly to urge the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development to produce a Ministerial Interim Minerals Planning Policy Statement as well as a new technical advice note to strengthen the precautionary principle with regard to planning applications for onshore oil and gas, including fracking.

Gareth Clubb, of FoE Cymru, claimed the petition held more than 1,000 signatures online and on paper. The petition was received by William Powell AM, chair of the petitions committee, and Russell George AM.

The petition was formally introduced at a meeting of the petitions committee on Tuesday morning.

MP ADDS HIS SUPPORT FOR THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

VALE MP, Alun Cairns is urging local residents to support the Samaritan's Purse campaign – to help deliver their 100 millionth gift-filled shoebox during this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign.

Samaritan's Purse is calling on all churches, schools, workplaces, families and individuals in the Vale to help achieve this remarkable milestone.

Over the past 22 years, Samaritan's Purse has delivered 94 million shoeboxes to needy children in more than 100 countries. To lift this total to 100 million and beyond, UK staff and volunteers have embarked upon a nationwide drive to find and encourage even more people to help bring joy to children around the world this Christmas.

Mr Cairns said: "The Operation Christmas Child campaign has proved hugely successful to date, and makes a real difference to the lives of so many children worldwide.

"I'm sure that once again, residents and schoolchildren across the Vale will help contribute gift-filled shoeboxes to vulnerable children in Belarus, Kosovo, Romania and Serbia."

The Vale of Glamorgan area coordinator for Operation Christmas Child, Ted Bird, said: "Last year, we received shoeboxes from supporters in a wide range of communities, including Barry, Cardiff, Cowbridge, Dinas Powys, Llantwit Major and Rhoose and more than 3,600 shoeboxes were distributed to vulnerable children in Belarus, Kosovo, Romania and Serbia.

"It's wonderful to think that we are a small part of such a large global project that is doing so much good for millions of children."

Readers can visit www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk for instructions on how to complete a shoebox in time for the November 18 deadline.

Police plea after theft from car

POLICE in Llantwit Major are appealing for information, after property was stolen from a car parked on Ham Lane East on Friday, September 21.

The incident occurred between 1.45pm and 2pm, when the rear window of the unattended Ford Fusion was smashed and property was taken from the car.

The items taken included a black bag containing a Nokia mobile and a purse containing cards and cash.

Anyone with information regarding the incident, or anyone who may have witnessed the incident, is asked to contact the investigating officer Serena James at Llantwit Major Police Station on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Dinas Rotarians boost charities

ON Friday, September 21, the Dinas Powys Rotary Club was delighted to hold its annual charity golf day at St Andrews Golf Club, where owner and Rotarian John Edmunds was once again the excellent host.

Organised and arranged by Rotarian Dennis O'Shea, there were more than 14 teams who enjoyed a dry day throughout and the winning team was captained by Rotarian Aeron Hawkins.

The day raised considerable money for local and national charities.

The club would like to thank Rotarians Dennis and John and other volunteers for the terrific efforts.

The night before, the club were pleased to welcome as their guest speaker Julie Smith, general manager of Rookwood Hospital, a rehabilitation hospital in Llandaff.

It is the site of one of only 12 spinal rehab units in the whole of the United Kingdom. It is also a regional neuro-rehabilitation hospital as well as housing a geriatric day hospital, a geriatric intermediate care facility and a geriatric medicine rehabilitation ward.

Julie gave a presentation based on injuries and diseases concerning the brain and the effects of emotions, personal behaviour and moods, and how brain injuries can affect social and working life.

Club members were interested to hear the changes that can affect personal and family life and the vote of thanks was given by David Phillips.

To learn more about Rotary or how to join the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys, contact secretary David Williams on: davidandkath28@yahoo.co.uk, or call: 02920 513998.

CJ

Mother walks free after appeal court verdict

A MOTHER jailed after her children complained to social services that she had smacked them, has been freed after a judge said her actions were no worse than those of "many loving and caring parents throughout the land."

The Vale mother had carried out "excessive chastisement" on four occasions on two of her sons over the space of seven years, London Criminal Appeal Court heard.

The woman was sentenced to 18 months by Judge David Wynn Morgan at Cardiff Crown Court on July 16, after pleading guilty to four counts of cruelty to a person under 16.

Appeal judges, Lord Justice Elias, Mr Justice Coulson and Mrs Justice Thirlwall, ordered she be freed.

Her barrister, Ruth Smith, told the court she was arrested after one son made a false allegation to social services that she had attacked him and caused him bruising. The child later admitted that was a lie he had told to get more contact with his estranged father.

During, investigations, however, it came to light that she had slapped her son in the face during an argument in 2010, had banged two of her sons' heads together for fighting, and had also slapped two of her sons in 2003.

Lord Justice Elias said: "An offender must be sentenced only for what she has been found guilty of.

"We think that the premise of the sentence imposed by the judge was incorrect.

"If he had focused on the particular incidents, only one of which caused physical injury, while the others may be seen as chastisement going beyond its bounds, a sentence of 18 months was too long.

"We think the judge took his eye off the ball."

He concluded: "We think the right thing to do now would be to give her a sentence of five months imprisonment, that would secure her immediate release."

Vale Council house improvement plan is up and running

HUNDREDS of council tenants across the Vale have started to see significant improvement to their homes, as part of the Vale Council's housing improvement programme.

Contractors started work in September on the first six month phase of a four-and-a-half year improvement programme.

The implementation of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard will see new kitchens, bathrooms, rewiring and heating systems installed.

Four external contractors: Lovell Partnerships Ltd, Ian Williams Ltd, Apollo Property Services Ltd, SMK Building and Maintenance Ltd and the council's own Building Services Department have been appointed to deliver the programme to 4,000 council properties across the Vale.

Coun Bronwen Brooks, cabinet member for housing, said: "It is fantastic to see this long-awaited investment in our homes finally becoming a reality.

"This is the biggest investment in council homes in a generation, and will transform the quality of life for thousands of people."

Miles Punter, director for visible services and housing, added: "This is good news for all council tenants. Tenants have been waiting for a number of years for these improvements and the programme is now underway.

After the first six-month phase of improvements, approximately £16 million will be spent each year until April 2017.

There will also be additional funding for environmental improvements during the programme.

Gerry Amos, chair of the Tenants' Quality and Design Forum, whose group will monitor the performance of contractors, said: "The work completed by contractors to date has been very good and, as a tenants' group, we are pleased to see works starting.

"Tenants will see some disruption during the works, but the properties will benefit from a range of improvements and upgrades.

"I am sure tenants will be very pleased with the works that are completed."

Councillor's call to dispense with role of mayor

A BARRY town councillor has called for the role of Barry Town Mayor to be scrapped, and is suggesting that there should be a public vote on the issue.

Coun Robert Bertin, who represents the Barry Court ward on the town council, is calling for the role to be abolished in a bid to save money.

However, he also argued that the Barry Labour party has kept the post for itself, and denied long-serving councillors from opposition parties the chance to serve as mayor.

He said that thousands of pounds could be saved, but this was disputed in a statement issued by Barry Town Council, which said that a town mayor did not get paid, receiving an allowance for travel, entertainment and clothing.

Coun Bertin is now seeking a public petition calling for a referendum, so members of the public can have a vote.

Coun Bertin said: "I think it is time that the public have their say on this matter. After all, there is also a Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan so why do we need another?"

He added that if he obtained the signatures needed, he intended to present the petition to a full council meeting.

£75 fines for fouling

THE XFOR Company, tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering, issued 42 fines during the week beginning September 24.

It is part of a zero tolerance approach to environmental crimes, where offenders are issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75 without warning.

Owls talk is a hoot with the Friends

FRIENDS and Neighbours held their September meeting at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall recently, while their normal venue, Age Concern Senior Health Shop, was being refurbished.

Ann Bird of Owls 4 U gave an informative and very entertaining talk, as well as bringing owls for the members to see.

The group were amazed to see them and enjoyed listening to Ann's stories and some of the members held the owls. The members then enjoyed tea/coffee and cake.

The group is looking forward to the next meeting back at the Age Concern Senior Health Shop in October, when members will have their annual fish and chip lunch, as well as a talk by David Alexander on the 'True Story of the King of Siam'.

The group has flourished and has some 40-plus members and a waiting list.

Contact Gay Fifield 01446 400044 for further information.

CCTV arrests

NINE people were arrested in the Vale last week, thanks to information provided by the Vale Council's CCTV monitoring team.

Police were contacted by CCTV operators a total of 35 times during the week ending September 30.

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To arrange a local interview call 029 2049 4560

Multi Award Winning Teaching Agency

Out and About with The GEM

Vale AM's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery this Saturday, October 6 at Barry CAB office, 1119 Broad Street from 10am-12 noon. No appointment.

Weddings and flowers

'A WEDDING in the family' is the title of the demonstration to be given by Mr Adrian Cooke of Pembroke to members of the Barry Floral Society at their next meeting, to be held at the St Nicholas Hall, Barry, on Tuesday, October 9, commencing at 2.15pm.

New members are always welcome.

Coffee morning

CADOXTON WI are holding a coffee morning at the Corporate Suite, Civic offices, Barry on Tuesday October 9 from 10.30am-12 noon in aid of Ty Hapus.

There will be stalls and a raffle. Entrance is £1.50. Contact 01446 404891 for more information.

Digital art

ON October 11, Cowbridge Art Society members Gerry Thurston and Mike Davies will give demonstrations on the creation of digital art using iPad and laptop computers.

The society for artists of all abilities meet at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, on Thursday evenings (7pm-9pm)./

For full programme, see www.cowbridgeart-society.com.

Crystal clear

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church is holding a workshop on the introduction to crystals and gemstones with Robert Light, on October 13 at 10am. Admission £15.

Back to the '60s

FOLLOWING their successful concert of songs from the musicals of the 1950s in June, CAOS are now turning their attention to the 1960s for their annual autumn concert on October 12 at Llantwit Major Town Hall, October 13 at Cowbridge Town Hall, and October 14 at Highlight Park Community Hall in Barry (7.30pm).

Directed by a new young musical team, Sara Ghazi-Torbati and Ben Davies, it features songs from classic stage and screen musicals.

Tickets from 01446 773169 or society members.

Jumble sale

THERE will be a jumble sale at Ysgol Maes Dyfan School on Friday, October 19 at 1.45pm-3pm. All proceeds will go to the school. Admission 20p.

Comedy and live music for

ST ANDREWS Major Primary School PTA is presenting, for one night only, a comedy and live music night on Friday, October 19 at Dinas Powys Rugby Club.

The comedy line up is Liam Schewitz, Jordan Brookes, Matt Rees, Leroy Brito and Mathew Heard.

Live music is from Calum Ross and the Scarlets.

A night not to be missed! The doors are open at 8pm and there's a raffle with cash prizes of £100, £50 and £25.

Tickets £10 from St Andrews Major Primary School office.

Comedy and music night

ST ANDREWS Major Primary School is organising a comedy and live music night on Friday, October 19 at 8pm in Dinas Powys Rugby Club.

Tickets are available from the school.

Band concert

TICKETS for RAF St Athan Voluntary Band's 74th annual concert go on sale this week.

The star-studded celebratory event takes place in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School on Saturday, October 20 at 7.30pm and will feature the band, the Dowlais Male Voice Choir and special guest Stan Stennett.

Tickets £7 (£5 concessions), available from Chris Davies Estate Agents, East Street, Llantwit Major, or telephone 01446 798527 to reserve for collection on the door.

See the band's website rafstathanvoluntaryband.co.uk for further details.

Charity lunch

ON October 20, the local committee of Cancer Research UK will be hosting their annual sausage and mash lunch at the Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl at 12.30pm.

Tickets available from Diane Jones on 01656 784762, or Susan Sharp on 01656 773670 (£6.50).

Touchdown on the Wye

MEMBERs of 634 Volunteer Gliding Squadon, based in Barry, are preparing to take on the river Wye this November to raise funds for Wales Air Ambulance.

The team will be switching gliders for canoes and praying for nice weather, as they set out in the 75-mile paddle down the river from Whitney on November 2.

They hope to paddle to Redbrook by November 4.

Forecast good

THE Gathering Place Christmas Fayre takes place on Saturday, December 1, when weatherman Derek Brockway opens the event at midday.

Santa will be visiting, and there will be various stalls including a cake stall, home-made Christmas cards, crafts, bric-a-brac, books, chocolate fountain, refreshments, etc.

To book a table, call 01446 750700 or email thegatheringplacestathan@gmail.com. Everybody welcome.

Collectors' fair

THERE will be an antique and collectors' fair on October 13-14 in the new luxury marquee at Cottrell Park Golf Resort, St Nicholas.

The fair includes pottery, porcelain, silver, clocks, paintings and jewellery (including a rare silver Chester hallmarked 1906 'Iona' Celtic design brooch.

Entrance £1.50. Open 10am-4pm, free car parking.

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PACT meetings

***ST ATHAN PACT** on Sunday, October 7 at the Gathering Place, St Athan, between 2pm-4pm.*

***BARUC PACT,** October 14 from 3.30pm-5.15pm at Amherst Crescent, and then from 5.30pm-7.30pm at Marine Drive.*

***ST BRIDES PACT** at St Brides Church Hall on Monday, October 15 at 6pm.*

***COWBRIDGE PACT** at the Fire Station, Druids Green on Monday, October 15 at 7pm.*

Cinema starts up in community

LLANCARFAN Community Cinema's opening night screening of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* played to a full house recently.

The new nonprofit, volunteer-run monthly film club, which screens in Llancarfan village hall, launched with an Indian-themed drinks reception. Such was demand, tickets had sold out days in advance of the event.

The next film in the programme (Friday, October 19) is *The Woman in Black* (12A), based on Susan Hill's best-selling novel and hit stage play. It follows the story of recently widowed lawyer Arthur Kipps (played by Daniel Radcliffe).

Doors open 7.15pm and the performance starts at 7.30pm.

Advance tickets are available by emailing llancarfancine@gmail.com, or direct from the Fox and Hounds pub, Llancarfan.

Vale artists put on Cardiff exhibition

Jane Hutt AM with artists Eileen Allen, Susan Roberts and Gwyn Price.

FOUR members of the Vale of Glamorgan Artists, (VOGA) Gwyn Price, Eve Hart, Susan Roberts and Eileen Allan are exhibiting at the latest VOGA exhibition which is in Cardiff at the Oriel Canfas Gallery in Glamorgan Street near the Chapter Arts Centre.

With the theme 'Seeing the Unseen' the exhibition enables artists to express this in many different ways. Vale AM Jane Hutt, who opened the exhibition described as "inspirational and intriguing".

She said: "The exhibition is open until October 20, so head for the Oriel Canfas, Canton, and see the Vale Artists promoting their excellent work in our capital city."

Guided tours return to Cosmeston village

COSMESTON Medieval Village near Penarth is again offering guided tours to the public.

They were cancelled earlier this year due to budget cuts, but a reorganisation of staff responsibilities means that they are available again from early October.

Tours will be available at the following fees: £3.50 adult guided tour (weekends only); £12 family (two adults and two children, weekends only); £3.50 adult audio tour 10am-4pm daily; £3 concession price for both; schools by arrangement; pre-booked parties (10 persons or over), daily: concessions £3, adults £3.50.

Coun Gwyn John, Vale Council cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sports development, said:

"Entry to the village is free of charge to the public if they just want to look around, but many visitors who want more from their visit can take up the option of an audio tour.

"These are suitable for all the family and are offered in Welsh and English, as well as French and German for our foreign visitors.

"The village has continued to offer pre-booked costumed guided tours to schools and interested clubs; these have been very successful with more and more bookings being taken throughout the year.

"Now, due to public demand, tours by costumed guides are reintroduced on weekends from early October. Initially, there will be two tours at 12 noon and 1.30pm; this will increase during school and public holidays."

Tracey Alexander, of the Cosmeston Medieval Village Trust, who have been looking to work with the Vale Council to help develop the village, told The GEM that this was a step in the right direction.

She said: "We're delighted with the decision as this is one of the fundamental ideas we've had. We need to progress to the next stages of developing the village for the future.

"We are very, very pleased, and this contributes to the partnership we are trying to develop."

For enquiries, call: 029 20701678 or visit: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D742.

- **£2,000:** 363754.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £8,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 753905, 614058, 612508, 443000, 948634, 810545, 935280, 562461, 342607, 801554, 353046, 599444, 815321, 832700, 707137, 419088, 724183, 869809, 275511, 867689.
- **£5:** 158359, 248090, 513121, 352336, 715437, 767950, 707621, 557591, 550756, 393834, 487524, 270618, 270245, 752914, 578789, 751520, 822281, 175022, 103317, 656904, 810404, 792354, 211343, 868536, 346646, 742820, 552728, 765295, 342076, 235133, 757084, 216021, 469015, 253536, 725294, 353820, 586418, 728511, 837006, 741833, 339165, 719662, 543997, 375644, 710155, 696808, 685834, 815337, 786086, 383497, 655834, 746540, 705609, 235423, 597316, 589790, 710620, 672842, 568424, 778799.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

Looper strikes a blow for original, intelligent cinema

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

FROM his small-screen beginnings as Tommy in *Third Rock From The Sun*, Joseph Gordon Levitt has turned into quite the movie actor.

Gripping, independent fare such as *Mysterious Skin* has balanced out with quirky romantic comedy in *(500) Days Of Summer*, and even big budget blockbusters like *The Dark Knight Rises*, Levitt standing out in terms of his quality and dependability.

He re-teams with his *Brick* director Rian Johnson in *Looper*, where he plays Joe, a 'looper' who is employed to kill people sent back through time on behalf of the mob. However, when he is asked to kill his older self (played by Bruce Willis), it sets in motion a chain of events that threatens to change the future...

I'm doing the plot of *Looper* a disservice with the above synopsis, having pared down a dense and intricately constructed story into its most basic parts.

Fundamentally, it's a time-travel film with notions of fate and life, but penned and directed by Rian Johnson, it becomes something even more satisfying and enjoyable – a film that manages to balance spectacle and story with a good dose of intelligence and, in a sea of adaptations and sequels, stands out with its individuality.

Johnson's previous forays on the big screen include the quirky *The Brothers Bloom* and the clever high-school-set noir of *Brick*, but while Looper has little in common with these films, tonally the hallmarks of Johnson are all over it.

The dialogue is sharply written, the plotting watertight. The complexities of time travel are well negotiated by Johnson, who manages to avoid nearly all the pitfalls that come with the genre and makes the story feel satisfying and engaging while never spoon feeding the viewer.

Visually, Johnson makes the step up seamlessly, giving the future a realistic, gritty sheen but throwing in little elements that evoke the sense of the future, while the dark, gloomy world looks beautiful yet dangerous. Johnson also handles the more spectacular scenes stylishly, giving another dimension to match the heavy narrative – Johnson really is on top form here.

Casting actors of the quality of Joseph Gordon Levitt and Bruce Willis certainly does the film no harm, the pair bringing out different facets of the same character while maintaining the integrity.

Levitt, wearing prosthetics that make him look closer to a younger Willis, captures the headstrong callow youth of Joe, whose life holds no importance beyond a fleeting affair with a stripper, his job and a low-level drug dependency. Willis manages to take on board Levitt's turn and add the sadness of opportunities missed and wrong decisions made, coupled with an opportunity to change things for the better.

Both actors are on fine form here and deliver strong performances that sit well, while in supporting turns, the likes of Emily Blunt, Jeff Daniels, Paul Dano and, in a mesmerising turn, young Pierce Gagnon, all shine when required to in a superbly acted piece.

In an age of unoriginality, *Looper* stands out like a beacon, and with all the elements in place, delivers the goods. A film of substance and quality, *Looper* is one of the finest films of the year.

VERDICT – *Looper* is an example of Hollywood getting it right. Rian Johnson's originality and ingenuity makes for a mesmerising film that is only helped by excellent turns from the likes of Joseph Gordon Levitt, Bruce Willis and Emily Blunt, and cannot be lauded enough. Highly recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *In Time* (2011), *Donnie Darko* (2001)

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Life is complicated, and so is death, warns Passmores

PASSMORES has warned that dying intestate – without having written a will – can result in added difficulties for your family at a very sad time, and may also lead to unintended consequences.

Miss Carli Evans of Passmores said: "There are many misunderstandings about dying intestate.

"Everything doesn't necessarily pass automatically to your spouse.

"The laws vary depending on the deceased's family circumstances and the content of their estate.

"If you don't write a will, your property will be divided between your spouse, if you have one, and other family members, in accordance with strict rules – which may not be at all what you would have wanted.

"Many people have quite complicated family lives these days, and if you want to make sure that your property goes to the people you want to have it, you need to write a will."

The Law Society urges people to write a will, and points out that couples who are neither married nor in a civil partnership should make sure they have written a will, otherwise their partner will not benefit under the intestacy rules.

The president of the Law Society, Lucy Scott-Moncrieff said: "I know that many people assume that because they have lived together for many years, they have certain rights to their partner's estate - and that if their partner dies, they will be treated the same way under the intestacy rules as married couples or those in a civil partnership.

"They won't... In order to receive a share in their partner's estate, they will need to go court to make a claim.

" The easier option for cohabiting couples is to make a will beforehand."

The society has warned that anyone writing a will should use a solicitor and avoid the many unregulated will-writers who have hit the headlines for shoddy work.

Lucy Scott-Moncrieff added: "Not only are will-writers unregulated, some are not properly insured, nor are they covered by the jurisdiction of the Legal Ombudsman.

"So your family will have no redress after you die, if it turns out that the will does not do what you wanted it to do."

Please contact Miss Carli Evans at Passmores, 21 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB on 01446 721000, or by email: ce@passmores.com, for more information.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

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Penarth Natural Health Services, 11 Bradenham Place, Penarth, CF64 2AG, telephone 02920 701370; or visit info@penarthnaturalhealthservices.co.uk.

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Local solicitor is shortlisted for prestigious award

TRAINEE solicitor, Hanna Campbell, of Llantwit Major law firm HorseSolicitor, has been shortlisted in the category of 'Junior Lawyer of the Year' in this year's Law Society Excellence Awards.

HorseSolicitor is a niche law firm acting in equine matters including personal injury, veterinary and solicitor negligence claims.

The awards are open to all lawyers in Wales and England. Hanna (31) who lives and works in Llantwit Major was shortlisted into a category open to all solicitors (up to five years post qualification experience) and trainee solicitors in Wales and England. Many of those shortlisted are from some of the world's leading firms in London, highlighting the significance of Hanna's achievement.

Hanna reached the final stage after developing her idea of a niche equine law firm (HorseSolicitor) which continues to grow and attract high profile work.

Such innovation, commitment and ability are qualities rarely exhibited by partners, let alone trainees. Hanna qualifies as a solicitor in March 2013.

She was nominated by her husband, Andrew Campbell, who runs Bikelawyer Motorcycle Accident Solicitors in Llantwit Major.

Andrew was shortlisted in the same awards in 2007 in the category of Solicitor of the Year.

Bikelawyer owns and manages HorseSolicitor. The firm, which was set up in 2009, currently employs five lawyers with a sixth joining in November.

It mainly deals with serious and catastrophic personal injury claims.

The winner will be announced at a black tie event in London on October 18

Gentle exercise with a friendly group

WILLOWS Tai Chi and Qi Gong class meets at St Francis Millennium Centre, Westward Rise, Barry.

We are a small, friendly group meeting twice weekly, some prefer the Thursday evening class – a good way to unwind after a hectic week, ready for the weekend – which for some is busier than the working week.

Others prefer a class in the day time so that they needn't come out in the dark winter nights. Either one provides very gentle exercise, which is done slowly and within the comfort level if each individual.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

True Relax can help ease stress

FEELING stressed? Tired? Can't sleep? True Relax is bringing its award-winning weekly relaxation classes to Llantwit Major, starting on Wednesday, October 10, at 'Health Conscious'.

True Relax is the brainchild of Debbie Wildi – a stress management coach who has also been running Mini Relax and Teen Relax sessions for children in schools throughout Wales since 2009 .

She holds one-to-one True Relax sessions for adults, children and teens throughout south Wales. Now – due to high demand – is starting weekly adult classes in her home town of Llantwit, where she will teach you simple meditation methods that have been proven to help combat sleep problems, anxiety and other stress symptoms.

Her classes have been hailed as 'An hour of pure tranquil bliss!'

To book, or for more info, please call Debbie on 01446 790397. For more info on True Relax (for adults), Mini Relax (for ages four-10) or Teen Relax (for ages 11-17) see www.truerelax.co.uk or www.minirelax.co.uk

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Gender move set to increase insurance premiums

DANIEL THOMAS explains that from December 21 the EU Genderisation Directive will mean that men and women will have to be treated equally by insurance companies.

This means that all types of insurance are set to be increased by 20 per cent or more. The good news is that if you buy before this date you will be able to benefit from the cheapest insurance premiums available as all insurance companies are heavily competing for business before this date.

So, if you wish to look at new insurance or review existing insurance to save money you really need to act now.

DPT Financial solutions are your local advisor and specialise in all areas of financial services and most notably private and commercial protection.

Please contact Daniel Thomas on mobile (07771 888729), office (01443 229589) or email: dptfs@live.com.

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The time to sort out your Will is now!

A WILL is often one of those things we all mean to 'sort out', but very often is left undone.

Nonetheless, it is a vital document to have in one place – to give peace of mind, to ensure that the people we want to benefit at the time of death actually benefit, to bequeath a legacy to a friend or charity.

Actually, making a Will is a very straightforward process.

Alternatively, you may already have made your Will but are wondering if it is still appropriate for your requirements. Perhaps you need to appoint guardians for your children, or you now have grandchildren, or you have recently benefited from a legacy yourself which may increase the value of your estate – or you may simply feel that your current Will no longer fulfils your wishes.

For advice or assistance on any of these matters, please contact Glamorgan Law LLP at The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge, on 01446 771742.

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Hypnotherapy can help keep you young

NOVEMBER 7 is National Stress Awareness Day: 12 million adults visit GPs with mental health and stress related problems every year, according to MIND 2012 statistics, and many struggle on without seeking medical help.

Excessive stress can cause imbalances in the body, including high cortisol, glucose, insulin, and low growth hormones. These may lead to unwanted responses in our bodies, potentially impairing the normal cell ageing processes.

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Food festival announces 'tweaks' to car parking

PREPARATIONS for the 2012 Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival on October 27 and 28 are well under way; and festival organisers have released details about the new parking and traffic arrangements for the weekend's events.

The Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival committee have acted on feedback provided by traders, visitors, exhibitors and residents.

A spokeswoman said: "Following comments that traders would benefit if visitors could alight the park and ride buses in the centre of town, the Vale Council has approved the use of the town centre bus stops on the High Street.

"It is hoped that this development will encourage more visitors into town centre shops, particularly if traders are offering special festival events or offers."

The timetable of buses will be clearly marked and will go every half hour from each of the stops.

The Park and Ride sites remain the same:– Cowbridge School if travelling from Cardiff direction or Llwynhelig Farm, just off the A48 from the Bridgend direction.

The Park and Ride system remains free of charge for all to encourage as many to use this facility as possible.

The spokeswoman continued: "The committee has also responded to feedback that the town hall car park should be freed for visitors to the town.

"This year, the front right-hand section will no longer be used for demonstration vehicles, and the Vale Council has agreed this will be used as increased designated disabled parking for the duration of the festival.

"Exhibitors will now be directed to other parking sites and if they are found to be parking in the town hall car park, the penalty will be that they won't be invited to attend in 2013."

Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival event manager, Polly Wilson, said: "Tweaks to parking and traffic arrangements are made annually to ensure the festival runs as smoothly as possible for everyone involved.

"We are hugely grateful to the Health Centre, who are providing extra exhibitor parking sites this year, as well as the wonderful Cowbridge Cricket Club, who marshal the public parking in all weathers every year.

"A big thank you to everyone involved."

For more information on events, exhibitors and entertainment, visit www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org

ASSAULT: Police appeal

POLICE in Barry are appealing for information following an assault on High Street in the early hours of Saturday August 4.

The incident occurred at approximately 2am, when a 28-year-old man was assaulted by an unknown male on High Street, near the junction with St Paul's Avenue and Trinity Street.

A 25-year-old female and another 28-year-old man also sustained minor injuries during the incident.

Police are looking to trace the male shown in the CCTV images in connection with the assault.

Anyone who recognises the male, or anyone with further information regarding the incident, is asked to contact Barry Police on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Jam sessions

THE web design initiative Jam is encouraging community groups and charities in the Vale and Cardiff area to come along to its free website building workshop on October 11-12.

Workshops are being held in Cardiff city centre in St Mary's Street in the 'Our Digital Planet' internet station near Flares Nightclub and McDonalds from 10.30am-1.30pm.

No previous experience of web development is needed and learners will be supported to build their own website in just a few hours.

Funded by the Nominet Trust, a UK-registered charity which supports organisations that use the internet to create positive change, Jam has so far set up websites for everyone from running clubs to community choirs.

To find out more or book a place on a Jam workshop, please visit: *http://workshops.madewithjam.org.*

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*20% deposit paid, balance payable at at the End of 12 months. Subject to status

Last Vulcan takes to the air for flypast

GEM reader, Terry Verrinder, captured this glimpse of the last airworthy Vulcan bomber over Fonmon Castle, during a Vale flypast on Saturday.

ORDAINED CURATES HAVE VARIED BACKGROUNDS

CURATES serving in churches at Penarth, Llantrisant and Aberavon, were ordained as priests at a packed service in Llandaff Cathedral last week.

They were Rev Dr Mark James Dimond, 44, assistant curate of All Saints Penarth, Rev Jonathan (Jon) Robert Ormrod, 49, assistant curate in the parish of Llantrisant, and Rev Benjamin (Ben) Thomas Rabjohns, 26, assistant curate in the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon.

They were ordained by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne. All three were ordained as deacons last year, and will continue to serve as assistant curates in their parishes.

Ben Rabjohns grew up in a vicarage where his father, Alan, served as vicar of St Saviour's Church, Roath, for more than 30 years.

Dr Mark Dimond worked as a university history lecturer in Cardiff before training for the ministry. He is married to Samantha and the couple have three school age children.

The son of a diplomat, Mark was born in Japan and has lived in many different countries, including Sweden, Czechoslovakia, France, Russia and Hungary. He has also worked as an examiner for the International Baccalaureate. His hobbies include walking and tennis.

Jonathan Ormrod is originally from Neath but worked as a stage manager for many years, including at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Birmingham Royal Ballet. He is married with two daughters, both at university.

PICTURED (from left) Ben Rabjohns, Jon Ormrod, Bishop David Wilbourne and Mark Dimond at Llandaff Cathedral.

Penarth Computer Club news

COMPUTERS can be frustrating on occasion.

The hardware is very reliable, as are the software operating systems that control how everything works, but that is not to say they are perfect, but are much better than they used to be.

Except for one major component 'The User', which is you and me.

Clever people have designed systems to cope with most of whatever the user throws at it, but they cannot cover all the variations of human demands and expectations.

You could read the manuals, but it is rare to find one that speaks to you at a level you could understand. There are some that purport to be written for 'Dummies', but you still need some basic knowledge to follow them.

Then there are training courses. You might find exactly what you are looking for and even scheduled to suit your diary. However, some find them too fast, some too slow; some with the wrong emphasis.

One of the most useful things to do in that direction is to develop good habits rather than poor ones. For example, if you install programmes from the web or from magazine disks, don't do it directly.

Create a folder in your documents folder named 'My Installs' or similar. Within that folder make a folder with a name to suit the software you are installing, perhaps the name of the programme or its purpose.

Then download the programme from the web or copy it from the magazine disc and put it into the prepared folder.

You are then in a position to install the programme by running the installation from the file already on your computer. The advantage is that if you ever need to reinstall it you do not have to find the original disc or remember where it came from on the web.

It is sitting in your 'Installs' folder. And of course it will be backed up somewhere, as a result of another good habit: making regular back-ups.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, October 9. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start. For more information, visit the website at penarthcomputerclub.co.uk. **HD**

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Public Viewing 9.30am until 13.00hrs, Saturday 6th October 2012. Online Auction Open Now for Registration & Bidding, First Lot Closes from 19.00hrs, 8th October 2012.

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The Six Bells - Penmark

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP - ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

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THE future of The Six Bells village pub and restaurant was assured recently when local publicans James Barnsley and Mark Tuck became the owners.

James and Mark had run it for more than four years under a lease arrangement, but taking ownership of it was the realisation of a dream.

James said: "Over the years, the pub has had landlord after landlord, but those days are over because we are here for many years to come."

Mark said: "We'd wanted to buy The Six Bells for so long. When it came up for sale, we were really encouraged by the support of local people.

"We've integrated into Penmark and when the sale went through, there was a feeling of elation."

A party was held to celebrate James and Mark's official takeover. Villagers and regulars from the surrounding area were thrilled that in an age when the 'Great British Pub' is under threat, one of the Vale's leading pub-restaurants had had its future secured.

James said: "More than 200 people – villagers, friends and family – turned up to celebrate with us."

Mark added: "People were so pleased when we got the pub that they sent cards, flowers and even bottles of champagne!"

So why are people so enthusiastic about The Six Bells?

In short: great food and great service.

The Six Bells – picturesque and in Penmark.

James and Mark welcome everyone personally.

When The GEM visited The Six Bells, some people were about to leave, one in a wheel chair, and James quickly volunteered: "I'll be the driver," and guided the wheel chair user carefully through the doors.

People are treated as people at The Six Bells – not just as '*the next customer*'.

James and Mark source much of the food locally – they have their own allotments, so the vegetables are crisp and fresh – and much of the meat is from Wales.

James stressed: "We pride ourselves on our excellent traditional dishes and the fact that the dishes are home made – our chef David Williams has been with us for four years – and he has a real talent for tempting desserts which are his speciality!"

One of the most appealing aspects of The Six Bells is that it has two traditional, black-beamed, old country bars, complemented by a light, airy, modern renovation for the dining area and the function room.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

The dining room bar – where customers can order drinks before going through to the dining room.

ABOVE: The modern dining room area.

ABOVE: Mark (left) and James celebrated the acquisition of the pub with 200 family members, friends and regulars.

MOLSON Coors
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The Six Bells - Penmark

Family and corporate events are held in the function room with its own bar.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Last week, James and Mark hosted groups as diverse as Rhoose WI and businessmen on a visit to Wales from the Far East – all drawn by The Six Bells' reputation.

Weekend roast meals are also a big draw for people in the Vale.

James said: "Sunday lunch is very popular and we advise people to book in advance to guarantee a table."

And with the festive season not far off, staff at The Six Bells are already making preparations.

Mark pointed out: "People can come in from this week and we can supply them with a Christmas menu – or they can ring up and we'll send one out."

The sentiments of villagers and local people at news of the take-over were exemplified by Sheila Griffiths, the churchwarden of St. Mary's Church, which lies just across the road from the Six Bells Pub, who told The GEM: "Congratulations and best wishes to James and Mark from all at St. Mary's Church, Penmark, proud owners of the *original* 'six bells' in the village. Ring out the celebrations!"

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Californian bike ride helps to raise £45,000 for Velindre Cancer Centre

Pictured LEFT to RIGHT are: (back row) – Jonathan Davies, Paul Hole, Andy Booth, Andy Moore, Martyn Williams, Isabel Graham, Mike Hall, Esther Hitchcock, Marianne England, Rhys Williams and Caroline Hole. Front row – Louise England, Freddie Hitchcock, Lydia Hitchcock, Geoff Graham, Julian Hitchcock.

THE 'Bear Back Riders' returned to Cowbridge this week, after completing their epic 'Captains' Californian Bike Ride' – to raise funds for the Velindre Cancer Centre in Cardiff.

Bear Back Riders Julian, Esther, Freddie and Lydia Hitchcock, Geoff and Isabel Graham, Paul and Caroline Hole and Marianne and Louise England, joined a group of Welsh rugby legends on the gruelling 390km cycling route.

The five-day challenge (September 18-22) started in Yosemite National Park and after experiencing undulating terrain, 90-degree heat, fierce headwinds, and nights of camping with the ever-present fear of bears – and temperatures which plummeted to -8 – they finished by crossing the iconic Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

Julian Hitchcock explained: "It was a tough challenge, but an incredible experience all the same. No matter how tough it got, the reason we were doing it was the ultimate driver.

"Everybody shared their individual motivating stories for taking part, which was truly inspirational.

"Together with this and the team encouragement, the challenge was an incredible and memorable experience for such a fantastic cause.

"The Bear Back Riders would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising events over the last 12 months: the '70s night, rugby breakfast, ladies' night, and gentlemen's evening, all of which were held at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge – along with the finale – the summer ball held on June 22 at The New House Country Hotel, Cardiff."

Thanks to the support of local businesses, residents, friends and families, The Bear Back Riders have raised a phenomenal £45,000 for the Velindre Cancer Centre.

If anyone would still like to donate towards this worthwhile cause, it isn't too late: contact ***https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/bearbackriders.***

...NFU event raises £220 for Macmillan

The First Minister (second on right) at the NFU Mutual offices.

THE NFU Mutual offices of Bridgend and The Vale held a Macmillan coffee morning at the new office on Friday, September 28, when family and friends, work colleagues and neighbouring offices supported the cancer charity and more than £220 was raised.

Pam Harris, the organiser, also won a competition with local radio station Bridge FM, who sent their DJ Lee Jukes along with some coffee from Ferraris, and spent some time talking to staff and recording live on air.

Mr and Mrs Carwyn Jones also popped into the office for a coffee and some cakes, spent some time talking to local farmers, and supporting a cause close to both their hearts.

Pam Harris thanked all those who supported the event and "made it the great success that it was".

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES (BOVERTON ROAD LLANTWIT MAJOR) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012

1. Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 45, 46 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and pursuant to Part IV of Schedule 9 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to extend the existing disabled persons parking place at the location specified in the Schedule below.

2. Full details of the proposals, may be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Director of Visible Services & Housing (Ref.IF692) in writing by 26th October 2012 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

SCHEDULE

The following Traffic Regulation Orders to be amended as follows:

The County Council of South Glamorgan (Boverton Road, Llantwit Major) (Limited Waiting) Order 1989.

Schedule 1, Column 1 delete the following text:

'and from a point 181 metres west of the same junction for a distance of 9 metres west.'

The County Council of South Glamorgan (Boverton Road, Llantwit Major) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) Order 1988.

In the Schedule delete text '6 metres' and replace with text '13 metres'

Dated this 4th day of October 2012

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

GORCHYMYN (DIWYGIO) (1) YNGLYN MANNAU PARCIO I BOBL ANABL (BOVERTON ROAD, LLANILLTUD FAWR)

1.1. Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 45, 46 a 53 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), ac yn unol â Rhan IV Atodlen 9, a phob pwer galluogi arall, yn gwneud y Gorchymyn canlynol. Diben cyffredinol y Gorchymyn yw ymestyn y mannau parcio ar gyfer pobl anabl yn y lle a nodwyd yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Cewch weld y cynigion llawn yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg yn y cyfeiriad isod, yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, ac os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r cynnig hwn, dylech anfon llythyr at Bennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai (Cyf. IF692) erbyn 26 Hydref 2012, gan egluro eich rhesymau am hynny.

3. Os oes gennych wrthwynebiad i'r Gorchymyn, cofiwch fod gan y cyhoedd hawl o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985 i weld unrhyw sylwadau sy'n cael eu gwneud, a bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor i ddarparu ar gyfer hynny.

ATODLEN

Diwygier y Gorchmynion Rheoli Traffig hyn fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Cyfyngu ar Aros) (Boverton Road, Llanilltud Fawr) Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg 1989.

Atodlen 1, Colofn 1 – dile_r y testun canlynol:

'ac o fan sy'n 181 medr i'r gorllewin o'r un gyffordd am 9 medr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.'

Gorchymyn (Mannau Parcio i Bobl Anabl) (Boverton Road, Llanilltud Fawr) Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg 1988.

Yn yr Atodlen, dile_r y testun '6 medr' a dodi '13 medr' yn ei le.

Dyddiedig 4 Hydref 2012

M. E. Punter,
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V2C
VALLEYS TO COAST
COMMITTED TO AN ORDER

If so, why don't you come along to hear about our new Valleys to Coast Grounds Maintenance Contract at the Waterton Centre, Bridgend on **Thursday, 11 October 2012 from 11am to 12.30pm.**

Valleys to Coast Housing is responsible for a significant amount of public open space across Bridgend and is planning to award contracts to firms who'll help us to reshape the way we maintain these areas on our housing estates.

The event will provide you with useful information about the contract, what has worked well elsewhere and an opportunity to chat to us.

If you would like to join us, please contact Joanne Thomas on 01656 762511 or email at Joanne.Thomas@v2c.org.uk as all places will need to be pre-booked.

Valleys to Coast Housing Limited
1 Court Road, Bridgend CF31 1BE • 0300 123 2100 • www.v2c.org.uk

Anniversaries

Congratulations to
Ron & Val

on 60 years of marriage
on October 5th, 2012
Congratulations and lots of love from all of the family xxx

See more notices and classified ads, starting on page 27!

Engagements

Congratulations on the Engagement of
Ian Bradshaw (Llampha)
& **Rachel England**
(Cowbridge)
Wishing you both every happiness.
Lots of love from both families xxxx

Use The GEM to reach the people from Penarth to Porthcawl
Call 01446 774484 for friendly, helpful advice.

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

Chesterfield Sofa
Large, black fabric with matching cushions.
£300
01446 401264
(evenings) 40

Stairlift
in working order to suit straight stair run. Reasonable offers considered.
01446 794644
07710 179362 39/40

Large shopping trolley (4 wheels) **£10**
Garden Hose £10
2 gold fitted sheets for single bed (New). **£10**
01446 792487 39

Leekes Glass Cabinet
Two pieces, 5ft4in H, with drawers at bottom. Bought £499, will sell **£75.**
Excellent condition. Buyer collects.
01446 711477 40

Toshiba 37" Wide Screen LCD TV
HD ready, excellent condition.
£190
01446 796888 39

Hand Knotted Oriental Indian Rug
12' x 9', green, cream, peach and blue. Excellent condition, 3 years old. Cost £3,000, bargain at **£750.**
Large Berry Electric Wood Burner effect Stove **£75.**
01656 861920 40

Dining Room Table
Beech effect & 6 beige chairs, vgc - £175 ono.
Bunk Beds
Steel frame with mattresses - £75 ono.
01446 710760 39/40

Stairlift
New **£500**
Single Bed
With mattress and throwover, new **£100.**
01656 890489 40

Conservatory cane furniture
2 seater sofa, 3 armchairs, stool, lamp table & coffee table, vgc. Cost £1000 plus. **£250** or can sell separately
01446 710760 39/40

Large Lilliput Lane Cottages Collection For Sale
Good condition and boxed.
01656 773113 40

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ABTA

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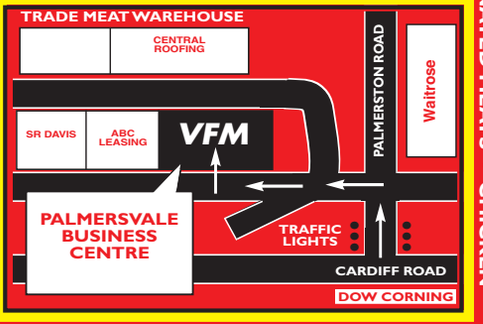

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Second half blitz from The Druids

LLANTWIT MAJOR Druids welcomed Bridgend Sports second team to the Rec with the visitors clearly intent on taking the Druids 100 per cent record.

The pre-match discussion with the Druids had been all about improving discipline on the field and starting with a bang from the first whistle.

The Druids delivered with two spectacular tries from young captain Stephen Howells, following phases of fantastic inter-passing between backs and forwards in the opening 15 minutes.

With a converted try and penalty on the board for the Sports, the final minutes of the half saw resolute defence from the Druids, with the home side finally conceding a converted try after a brutal battering by the Sports.

The Druids heads were held high and there was a feeling that the Sports had given of their best. This was truly a game of two halves, because the Druids blew the visitors away in the second half with scintillating play from forwards and backs.

They scored 36 points without reply in the second half with tries from Solomon Mole, Josh Austin, Fijian Dan Farrell, Damian Pontin Gardner, Jack Austin (brother of Josh) in his first senior game for the club, and four conversions and a penalty from David Spargo, who played solidly at scrum half.

This took the final score to 46-17 and another fantastic bonus point win.

The Druids visit Porthcawl this week in a cup match with the intention of maintaining their 100 per cent record, and beginning a cup run to complement their league performances.

Druids: Josh Austin, Rhys David, Nathan Hooson, Damian Gardner Pontin, Solomon Mole, Jack Austin, David Spargo, Allan Holloway, Mike Myers, Gareth Watts, Nathan Howells, Steve Coombes, David Synan, Steve Howells (captain), Dan Farrell: Substitutes, Matthew Young, Paul Gore, David St Clair, Vuli, Mark Jones, Rhys Ellis, Bryn McNaughton, Ieuan Rees.

BG

Cowbridge under-7s enjoy first tournament

BLUSTERY winds and driving rain provided the backdrop for the Cowbridge under-7s' first rugby tournament at Bridgend Athletic Club, where they played four matches and were delighted to finish runners up!

Cowbridge started the first match against Porthcawl superbly, with Osian Bruce slicing through the defence for his first try.

Joe Davies tore down the wing and cut inside to score, while Ioan Phillips and James Collingridge powered through to give Cowbridge a 4-1 lead at half time.

Cowbridge continued to look comfortable throughout the second half, with tries from Ioan, Osian and Sam Jackson making it a 7-1 victory for Cowbridge.

The second match against Rhiwbina B was much more closely fought, giving Cowbridge a 4-3 victory thanks to two tries for Osian and one each for James Lord and Henry Pugh.

Cowbridge drew the next match against Tondu 5-5, with tries from Joe Davies, James Collingridge and a superbly taken hat-trick from Osian.

Cowbridge had done enough to get to the final, and the boys took to the pitch soaking and shiveringfor the final against Bridgend Athletic.

Although the first half was closely fought, with more tries from Osian, James Collingridge and Joe Davies, Bridgend's robust defence meant that Cowbridge struggled throughout the second half, losing 6-3.

Many thanks to all the parents who came and supported the boys and braved the appalling weather.

PS

Calling all club officials! The GEM welcomes your sports reports and news - email *gemeditorial @tindlenews .co.uk*

Girls start in style

VALE Girls Football Club has two teams in the under-12 age group, one in the under-14 age group and one in the under-16 age group and has more than 60 girls playing each week.

There have been mixed fortunes in the early games.

In the under-12 section, Vale Athletic have drawn two and won one game, while Vale Wanderers have lost both of their first two games.

The under-14s have lost one and drawn on e,and the under-16s have won one and lost one.

The under-14s played a hardfought game against Lisvane in appalling weather conditions and, after taking the lead, were pegged back by a determined Lisvane side and eventually forced a 3-3 draw.

The under-16s played Porthcawl Town in very windy conditions and in an entertaining game won by eight goals to two.

They also played a very strong Troedyrhiw team containing several Welsh international players and were soundly beaten by seven goals to nil.

CT

NEWS FROM THE GLAMORGAN FARMERS' GOLF SOCIETY

Griff triumphs, but Dai grabs the glory with 18th hole super drive

LEFT to RIGHT: Trevor Wooding, David Williams, winner Griff Morgan, sponsor Dai John and Clive Edwards.

THE monthly meeting of The Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held last Thursday (September 27) at Neath Golf Club, attracting 28 entries, all seeking to win one of the many excellent prizes supplied by the day's sponsor – Arthur John & Co of Cowbridge.

It was ironic that after an excellent day's entertainment, the main talking point at the 19th hole would centre on the sponsor's representative Mr Dai John.

Dai's monster drive down the 18th hole to win the longest drive prize would have equalled anything to be seen over the weekend at the much-talked about Ryder Cup.

Main results:

Winner – Griff Morgan with 30 stableford points; second – Clive Edwards (29); third – David Williams (29); fourth – Trevor Wooding (28).

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Tosh Taylor and John Caines, with no one hitting the green on the other two par threes.

Tony McCarthy won the Premier Turf-sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing that 63 balls would spend the night on this mountain-top course, with its splendid views over the surrounding areas.

Some 28 members and guests are now looking forward to the annual 54-hole competition played over three days at The Ashbury Golf complex near Okehampton, starting on Thursday, October 11, with Llancadle farmer David Williams appointed as apprentice tour manager.

The society's next monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, at Pontardawe Golf Club, sponsored by local NFU Mutual group secretaries, Julian Kelly and David Harris.

TMcC

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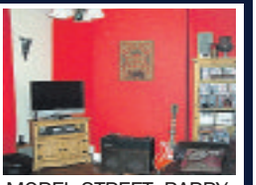

MOREL STREET, BARRY
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- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Enclosed garden to rear
- Some original features remain
- Open to reasonable offers

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PLAS ESSYLLT, SUNNYCROFT LANE, DINAS POWYS
- Immaculately presented 2 bedroom 1st floor maisonette
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- Balcony with views over Dinas Powys towards Llandough
- Off road parking to front
- Set on no through road, offering short walk to semi-rural woodlands

£122,950

REDBERTH CLOSE, BARRY
- A 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Private parking & driveway to front
- Conservatory
- Scope to extend subject to planning
- Viewings recommended

£127,500

SOUTH WALK, BARRY
- A good size 3 bedroom mid link property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Front & rear gardens
- Dated but in good order throughout
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£94,950

EVERARD STREET, BARRY
- Larger than avergae bay fronted 2 bedroom property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Through lounge with open plan kitchen/diner
- In need of redecoration throughout
- Ideal for investment or first time purchase

£102,950

ST MARY'S AVENUE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terraced property in good central location
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Recently renovated to a high standard
- Low maintenance enclosed garden to rear
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

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STUNNING

COLLEGE PLACE, BARRY
Well presented, semi detached, bay fronted. Living room, dining room - far reaching sea views. Fitted kitchen, wc and utility. Driveway. Enclosed larger than average garden. No chain.
£149,950

NEW

KATHLEEN STREET, BARRY
In need of modernisation, 3 double bedrooms, traditional flush fronted, living/dining room. Ground floor bathroom. Gas CH via combi. upvc DG throughout. No chain. Enclosed garden - garage.
£104,950

NEW

ST BRANNOCKS CLOSE, BARRY
First floor apartment.
2 bedrooms, cul de sac position.
Living room, kitchen/breakfast.
Garage/parking.
£86,950

NEW PRICE

TAF CLOSE, BARRY
Detached bungalow. Living room, dining room/bedroom, kitchen to overlooking front conservatory. 2 bedrooms, converted garage used as further bedroom. Wet room. Wheelchair accessible.
£174,000

NEW

HILDA STREET, BARRY
In need of some modernisation. bay fronted, mid terraced, 3 reception rooms, original features. 3/4 bedrooms. Enclosed rear garden. Gas CH.
£104,950

NEW SSTC

QUEEN STREET, BARRY
4 bedrooms. mid terraced traditional. Through living room, modern fitted kitchen. Ground floor bathroom. Well presented throughout. Quaint tiered garden. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi.
£119,950

NEW PRICE

COURTLANDS, BARRY
1st floor studio apartment.
Open plan: living room, kitchen and bedroom, separate bathroom.
Communal door entry. Maintenance free living. No chain.
£64,950

NEW

DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional. Living room. 2nd reception used as bedroom - ensuite. Dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room, upvc DG. Gas CH via replaced combi.
£117,950

NEW

COURT ROAD, BARRY
Victorian mid terraced, forecourted area, 3 double bedrooms, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen. wc cloak, utility area. Enclosed level garden.
Lane access.
£124,950

NEW PRICE

MAES Y GWENEN, RHOOSE
Constructed by David Wilson. Four double bedrooms. Master with ensuite and dressing room. Living, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, breakfast room, utility, well presented throughout. Enclosed laid to lawn garden. Integral garage. Cul de sac position.
£264,950

NEW PRICE

PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
Traditional semi detached bay fronted bungalow. Three bedrooms, reception room, sun lounge. Level enclosed rear garden. Driveway to front.
£189,950

NEW PRICE

REGENT STREET, BARRY
Well presented. 3 bedrooms, through living room, dining room, modern fitted kitchen. Family bathroom. wc cloak to 1st floor. upvc DG, gas CH.
An ideal first time buy.
£119,950

NEW

ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY
1930's bay fronted, semi detached. Retaining many original features. Stained glass windows, block flooring. 3 bedrooms, sea and park views. 2 reception room sw, wc cloakroom, kitchen/dining room.
£304,950

NEW

CASTLELAND STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, bay fronted traditional, through living/diner, kitchen/breakfast, 3/4 bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom, upvc DG, gas CH. No chain.
Walking distance to shops.
£119,950

NEW

COURT ROAD, BARRY
Victorian mid terraced, forecourted area. 3 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, family bathroom and separate wc. Enclosed level garden.
Lane access, garage.
£124,950

NEW PRICE

LLANDINHAM ROAD, BARRY
Well presented. 1st floor maisonette. living room - sea views. 2 double bedrooms, kitchen/diner, utility room. Replacement bathroom. 2006 Dunraven upvc windows. Gas CH via combi. Option of off road parking to rear (subject to usual consent).
£89,950

NEW PRICE

BLENHEIM CLOSE, BARRY
Spacious 4 bedroomed.
Through living room. Corner positioned. Front, side and rear gardens. wc cloakroom.
Garage/parking. Popular location.
£225,000

PARC CLWYD, BARRY
Detached dwelling constructed in 2000. Spacious living and dining room, kitchen with breakfast area. Granny/teenager flat providing sitting/bedroom and ensuite utility room and garden store. Conservatory. 4 bedrooms (master ensuite), family bathroom. Enclosed established rer garden. Front garden with ample parking.
£249,950

NEW PRICE

ARLINGTON ROAD, SULLY
2 bedrooms, modern bungalow. Replacement bathroom. Replacement kitchen, semi detached. South facing rear garden. Detached garage/driveway. Cul-de-sac position.
£174,950

GLEBE HOUSE, BARRY
Constructed in 1893. 3 storey semi. Original features throughout. 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast, original block flooring. 4 bedrooms, off road parking.
£189,950

GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional. 21ft fitted kitchen. 2 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms. basement workshop. Well presented. upvc DG. Gas CH. minutes walk to town. Lane access.
£155,950

NEW PRICE

MELYN Y GORS, BARRY
3 bedrooms. Modern semi detached. Built approx 2004. wc cloak, living room, kitchen/diner. 2 designated parking spaces. Ample street parking. Offered with no chain. Viewing highly recommended.
£144,950

GWENNOL Y MOR, BARRY
Modern mid terraced. Well presented. Living room, kitchen/breakfast. Conservatory. Master with ensuite. Garage in block. Enclosed level rear garden. Viewing highly recommended.
£142,000

NEW PRICE

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Spacious detached. Well presented. 4 bedrooms (ensuite). Persimmon built 'Wenvoe'. 3 reception rooms, kitchen - integrated appliances. Utility room, enclosed rear garden. Driveway.
£219,950

MERTHYR STREET, BARRY
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Gas CH via combi.
£89,950

MARLOES CLOSE, BARRY
2 bedrooms. Mid terraced.
Parking to front. Living room, kitchen/breakfast. Enclosed garden.
Ideal first time buy.
£99,950

MILLWARD ROAD, BARRY
Upgraded throughout. Mid terraced. bay fronted traditional. Through living room. 2 bathrooms, utility room, low maintenance garden. Well maintained.
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BROAD STREET, BARRY
Bay fronted. 4 bedrooms. mid teraced traditional. 3 reception rooms. Channel views from 1st floor. West End location. Enclosed garden/garage. Ideal family home.
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HEOL CORSGIWEN, BARRY
3 bedrooms. Modern detached - Llanmoor Homes. Sitting room (converted garage). Living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, wc. Master bedroom with ensuite. Double driveway providing more than ample parking.
£197,500

TENNYSON ROAD, BARRY
Three bedroomed, mid linked traditional. Well presented. Enclosed rer garden. Easy access to link road.
£102,500

NEW PRICE

SEVERN AVENUE, BARRY
3 bedrooms, modern mid terraced. wc cloakroom. Kitchen/diner. Living room - conservatory. Stairs rising to hobby area in attic. Backing onto allotments. Parking.
£124,950

WYNDHAM STREET, BARRY
Spacious living throughout. Mid terraced traditional. 3 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms. Enclosed courtyard - lane access. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Situated amidst shops, schools. Ideal family home.
£129,950

JEWEL STREET, BARRY
3 storey mid terraced. Option of converting basement rooms. To the ground floor 2 reception rooms and kitchen to the lower ground basement rooms. To the 2nd floor 3 bedrooms, family bathroom.
£119,950

CWRT PENCOEDTRE, BARRY
Extremely well presented. 3 bedrooms, modern semi detached. Replacement fitted kitchen. Through living room, kitchen/diner. Driveway providing parking. Ample room to extend (subject to consent). Cul de sac position. Viewing recommended.
£138,000

GELYN Y CLER, BARRY
3 bedrooms. Semi detached. Living room, kitchen/breakfast, private enclosed garden. Driveway to front. No chain.
Viewing highly recommended.
£149,950

COLDBROOK ROAD EAST, BARRY
3 bedrooms, bay fronted semi, Living room and dining room, Fitted kitchen, Driveway/side access. level enclosed garden. No chain.
£139,950

OFFERS CONSIDERED

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First Floor Bathroom

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Gurwin

Passed away peacefully at home on 27th September 2012. Dearly beloved husband of Denny, devoted father of Nicola, Andrea and David, loved father-in-law of Martin, David and Naomi, adored grandfather of Sam, Ben, Christopher and Chelsea.

Gurwin was well known in the local area and indeed further afield as a loved and respected minister who served his commuity for over 31 years.

Service will be held at Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road, Barry on:
Tuesday 9th October at 2pm

The family would like to thank the medical and nursing staff of Marie Curie, the District Nursing Team, Velindre Hospital, the Vale of Glamorgan Social Services and G J Care who provided such wonderful care for Gurwin and tremendous support for the family.

Special and sincere thanks to Pastor Mike Holmes, the congregation of Coastlands Family Church, family, friends and neighbours who have provided both practical and emotional support over many months - this has truly been appreciated.

Our gratitude also to Arthur Thompson and staff of A G Adams & Sons for their professional and personal service to Gurwin who was a personal friend and colleague.

No flowers by request. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care – facilities to do so will be provided at the service.

A GREAT MAN HAS GONE TO BE WITH HIS GREAT GOD

BROOKMAN
Mary Elizabeth

Passed away at the Princess of Wales Hospital on Tuesday 25th September.

Her funeral service will be held at Ramoth United Reformed Church on Monday October 8 at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only please, but donations may be made to Velindre Fundraising or the Dogs Trust.

JEFFERY
Enid (Nin)

Bravely passed away at Llandough Hospital on September 30th, aged 84 years surrounded by her loving family. Much loved mother, grandmother, sister and auntie, will be dearly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Service at Windsor Road United Reform Church at 12.15pm on Friday, October 12th, followed by service at The Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Dimentia UK. Enquiries to David Brown, Park Funeral Directors Limited, 01446 421212.

Forster Brown
Mark

Suddenly on September 28 at Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Mark of Llansannor, beloved husband of Patricia, dearly loved father of James, Chris and Jess, loving grandfather of Zoe, Keira, Lloyd and Millie.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday October 8. Service and interment 11.30am at Llansannor Church. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Queen Elizabeth Foundation for Disabled People, c/o JW James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

GEORGE
Megan

Passed away on the 22nd September at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Megan of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of the late Bruce. Much loved mother of Christine, Robert and John, loving Nana and great Nan. Dearly loved partner of Bill and loving sister of Keith.

Megan will be sadly missed all her family and friends.

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son,College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service at 2.00.p.m.on Monday 8th October in St.Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major. Family flowers only but donations if desired may be made to the Alzheimers Disease Society c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

JENKINS
Kath

Peacefully on 30th September 2012, Kath, loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral Service Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 12th October 2012 at 11am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent to the British Heart Foundation.

THOMAS

Peacefully at home on September 27th, Joyce, loving wife of Bert, loving mother of Alana and Patricia, resting at the private funeral home of Thomas Brothers until the funeral at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, October 9th at 11am.

Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB, no mourning please.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday
Victoria Patuto
11 years old *on* 4th October
Lots of love from all your family and friends
x x x

Happy 18th Birthday
Nathan Peters 18
on 6th October
Lots of Love & Hugs
Nannie, Uncle Dan & Pete *x x x x*
PS: You can buy me a drink now!

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A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Lifeguards are the masters at Championships!

IN a not so sunny week, Llantwit Major SLSC went down to Portreath in Cornwall to compete in the British Championships.

Not only did they enter a nipper and junior team, but for the first time in many years they had a masters team – this is for the 30+ age group, so not actually as old as it sounds!

The masters competed over the first two days with the team consisting of veterans Steph Robinson and Simon Osborne, those that had never competed in a lifeguard event before: Andy Wiggins, Leighton Simes, Andrew Mitchem, Jen Pitt, Elsa Mitchem, Ceri Goldby, Ben Bennett and those that were returning after many years away: Vicki Wiggins and Natalie McDonough.

They took gold in the men's relay – Simon Osborne, Andy Wiggins and Leighton Simes. Simon went on to take gold in the flags and long run, silver in the sprint and sixth in the swim.

Steph Robinson put in a sterling performance, getting second in the ski, fourth in long run and fourth in the board, also with her partner in crime Vicki Wiggins getting second in double ski and third in board rescue.

Andy Wiggins and Andrew Mitchem both got into the finals of their sprints, while Leighton Simes, who was also in with a good chance, had a little hiccup on the start line, and hence wasn't allowed to run.

Ceri Goldby, in her first competition, got a brilliant fifth in long run, eighth in flags and ninth in sprint. Elsa Mitchem got sixth in flags, and Jen Pitt competed in the sprints and went on to get a fifth in the relay. Ben Bennet and Simon Osborne did the board rescue for the first time and conquered the surf and came out the other end in one piece.

The juniors and nippers also had a some great results. There are normally 50-60 competitors in each event so the kids have to do the event twice and sometims three times and just to get through to a final is an amazing achievement.

We had two medals with the juniors – Tam Pitt got silver in the sprint and Meg Osborne got bronze in her age group sprint.

She was on for gold in the flags but unfortunately a "dip" in the sand decided to come between her and a gold medal!

Tam Pitt and Lauren Prynne were flying in the flags and came in a very respectable sixth and ninth. Olivia Insole and Lauren Prynne had a heart-stopping moment doing the board rescue. On the way in through the surf, the wave threw them off and and the board flew so high up in the air it's become an internet hit!

The board landed on Olivia's leg, luckily not breaking it, but she came away with a very large bruise which she was extremely proud of.

Josh McKenna and Josh Goldby also competed to a standard to be proud of and brought the team home with very high spirits.

Our little nippers hit the beach with trepidation, especially after seeing the surf that the juniors and masters had to contend with.

Again, 50-60 kids took part in each event but, again, we had two medal winners. Ruby Davies had a bronze in the flags and what a spectacle it was to watch.

Caitlin O'Callaghan, who was competing for the first time, came home with a bronze in the sprints. Well done, girls!

Sam Alexander narrowly missed out on a medal in flags, coming in fourth. Millie Wiggins and Ruby Davies got through to the final of board rescue, Grace Insole got through to the final of the super nipper.

Meg Roberts was an amazing competitor as she'd had a bug all week, hadn't eaten a thing and went on to compete in every event she was entered into.

The nipper team consisted of Grace Insole, Tom Insole, Ruby Davies, Theo Davies, Katie Prynne Mickey Prynne, Millie Wiggins, Sean McKenna, Rhian Goldby, Sam Alexander, Caitlin O'Callaghan, Morgan Mitchem and Megan Roberts.

This team worked together amazingly and all their results will be posted on our website as they all did so well, but needless to say they went on to be the best Welsh team that competed. All mums and dads were extremely proud of them all. Roll on next year!

Lastly, but by no means least, we had two little sandhoppers. Maisy Wiggins (six) and Morgan Mitchem (four), both competed in the flags and came away with medals. They both wore them to bed that night and for the following week.

We had an amazing two days of competition, and overall the masters came eighth in Britain with the ladies coming sixth.

It is Llantwit's 50th year of lifesaving next year and we are going to do it in style, so if your name isn't on the list, you will be getting the call soon!

Vicki Wiggins

Sporting success marked at Cowbridge Comprehensive

ABOVE: Welsh international Lloyd Williams presented some of the awards.

ABOVE: Hannah Sloan received the year-7 girls' endeavour award from Cowbridge Rotary Club. The year-7 boys' winner was Ellis Cartlidge-Llewellyn.

Cowbridge headteacher Debra Thomas.

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School staged its annual sports presentation on Thursday, September 13.

Headteacher Debra Thomas welcomed the guests, teachers, parents and pupils to the presentation to honour the school's international sportspersons and winners of international, national, county and district competitions.

Certificates were also given to members of winning teams and county representatives.

The Head introduced the special guest, Welsh rugby international and Cardiff Blues' Lloyd Williams, a former Cowbridge pupil

The event was compered by Gareth Roberts, who conducted the evening smoothly and efficiently.

Under-9s continue their winning ways

FOLLOWING the early season successes against Pontyclun and Pentyrch the Cowbridge under-9s squad travelled to Llandaff.

An excellent turnout by both clubs allowed 2 teams to be fielded by each club.

It proved to be a successful day as Cowbridge won 3 of the 4 games played; and the squad have now won 5 of their first 6 contact matches.

COWBRIDGE TEAM 1 v LLANDAFF TEAM 1

Cowbridge dominated this game with some fine attacking play and a solid defence.

A half time scoreline of 3-0 reflected the Cowbridge dominance and the second half followed the same pattern as Cowbridge ran out winners by 6 tries to 1.

The elusive Ruben Davies scoring superb a hat trick, Robbie Brown scoring 2 tries and Ollie Jones also crossing the whitewash.

COWBRIDGE TEAM 1 v LLANDAFF TEAM 2

This proved to be a much closer game, with Cowbridge again storming into a 3-1 half time lead, thanks to 2 Robbie Brown tries and 1 from Ruben Davies.

However, Llandaff produced a fine comeback in the second half with some excellent off loading combined with Cowbridge falling away defensively.

All Cowbridge could muster in the second half was a Robbie Brown try with Llandaff sneaking the result 5-4.

Cowbridge team 1: Ben Hardy, Luke Treadwell, James Jones, Ifor Rees, Iolo Davies, Robbie Brown, Ruben Davies, Sam Payne, Rhys Pritchard, Ollie Jones, and Ethan Francis.

COWBRIDGE TEAM 2 v LLANDAFF TEAM 2

This was a close game between two evenly balanced teams with Cowbridge finally edging the result by 5 tries to 4.

It was all square at half time with sides locked at 3 tries apiece with Cowbridge tries coming from Finlay Brace, Harry Treharne and Rhydian Williams.

A fine second half brace of tries by Rhydian Williams combined with a good defensive performance by the team ensured Cowbridge ended up winners.

COWBRIDGE TEAM 2 v LLANDAFF TEAM 1

This was another close game with Cowbridge being made to work hard for a 5 try to 3 victory. Rhydian Williams capped a fine day with another hat trick of tries supported with tries from Harry Treharne and Tom Brennan.

Another good defensive performance, restricting the opposition to only three tries showed that some of the hard work being done in training is paying off.

Cowbridge team 2: Rhydian Williams, Finlay Brace, Lewys Robbins, Archie Lloyd, Tom Collingbridge, Steffan Evans, Tom Brennan, Finlay Ball, Finlay Sullivan and Will Ryan. **MF**

The under-9s coaches praised

THe bad weather might have kept many people indoors recently, but Cowbridge under-8s were unfazed in their match against Pentyrch RFC.

These experienced young players (most of whom now have a whole year of playing under their belts) put up a sterling fight against their worthy opponents.

This was the under-8s' second match of the season.

Dad Matt Baker said: "It's wonderful to see how much they have all come on in the last year.

"All parents in the team feel an enormous debt of gratitude to the coaches (local businessmen Pete John and Richard Calcatera).

"They are there week in week out for both training and match days – and have become an inspiration to all the kids."

ON AND OFF THE TURF
with Brian Lee

No more racing at Bonvilston

THE 2012/13 point-to-point season fixture list has been published and enthusiasts in the Vale will be disappointed to learn that the Pentych Hunt Steeplechases and the Countryside Alliance (Wales) meetings, which were both held on the very popular Redlands Farm racecourse at Bonvilston, have been lost.

Bonvilston has been the home of the Dunraven Welsh point-to-point Grand National for some years now, and Ogmore's Nick Williams will go down in hunt-racing history as the last winner.

Nick, who rode Chloe Roddick's *Dear Villez* to victory, also won the race the previous year on Paul and Myfanwy Miles's *Findlay's Find.*

The meetings attracted racegoers from all over the country and the demise of these two fixtures will be a sad loss to Welsh horse racing.

Mr Tudor Harris, who farms the land the races have been held on, told me at the last meeting that it was getting difficult to find helpers.

There were also other factors involved as to racing taking place there in the future.

The first point-to-point fixture of the new season to be held in the Vale will be the Glamorgan Hunt's meeting at Ystradowen, near Cowbridge, on March 23.

The Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt will be holding their meeting over the same course on April 13.

The Llangeinor Hunt is moving from Laleston to a new course at the Dunraven Stud Farm near Pyle on April 20.

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SPORTING VOLUNTEERS GET A BIG 'THANK YOU'

Sports volunteers who have gone the extra mile in the Vale have been thanked at a special reception hosted by the Vale Mayor Coun Eric Hacker.

VOLUNTEERS who are at the heart of grass-roots sport in the Vale have been thanked for their efforts at a reception hosted by the Vale Mayor.

The importance of volunteers in sport was highlighted during the summer by the 'Games Makers' who helped make the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics such a tremendous success, and Vale Mayor Coun Eric Hacker was keen to recognise the efforts of the volunteers who have made an impact locally through their involvement with the Vale District Sports Council.

The group was recently disbanded after the best part of two decades, and among those thanked were founder member Alun Rees (Barry Huskies Basketball Club), Angela Price (Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club), Tony Smith (Penarth Petanque Club), Ian Le Breton (Penarth Rifle Club), Anne Horgan (Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club), Bethan Horgan (Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club), Leon Shakespeare (Barry Tae Kwon Do) and Heulwen Cooper (Barry Amateur Swimming Club).

Among the duties performed by the Vale District Sports Council was the organisation of the annual Vale Sports Personality of the Year Awards.

Coun Hacker said: "Grass roots sport often relies on a core of volunteers who go the extra mile for others. These individuals are among the many people in the Vale who go out of their way to run local sports clubs, and this reception was a way of saying thank you to them."

Also invited were volunteers who help run the Community Chest scheme in the Vale. Overseen by the Vale Council, with support from Sport Wales, Community Chest is a scheme that awards grants of up to £1,500 to sports clubs and organisations.

To find out more about becoming a volunteer with a local sports club, or further details about the Community Chest scheme, telephone the Vale Council's sports and play development manager, Karen Davies, on 01446 704793.

Golfers celebrate milestone birthday for popular member

THERE was a very good turnout of ladies in the clubhouse at Brynhill after golf on Thursday, to celebrate with wine, cake and flowers the 80th birthday of one of its popular members, Audrey Phillips.

Audrey first joined Brynhill back in 1960 and was lady captain in 1978 and again in 1991. She is renowned for playing in all weathers and is most encouraging of new members.

Her level of fitness is the envy of many. Recently, there was a backlog of team matches and with regular first and second team members unavailable, Audrey was to play for the first, second and third teams respectively on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday,

In the same week she also played in the 18-hole club competition on the Tuesday, and 12 holes in the Thursday league. A remarkable achievement for an octogenarian!

Celebration will continue next month with a 16-day trip to China.

LEFT to RIGHT: Four-ball better ball winners Jane Phillips and Glynis Gould.

Double winner Linda Howlett.

80th birthday celebration for Audrey Phillips.

Recent results

AUGUST 14 – Millenium Plate and Vets Silver Salver: Millenium Plate – Jane Phillips, 40 points; runner-up – Hilary West, 39 points. Vets Silver Salver – Hilary West, 39 points; runner-up – Pat Cogbill, 32 points.

August 21 – Daily Mail Foursomes: winners – Glynis Gould and Margaret Codd, 76.5 net.

August 28 – Waterford Crystal Vases (bronze and silver): silver winner – Linda Howlett, 30 points; bronze winner – Carole Bunford (30 points).

September 4 – Four-Ball Better Ball Trophy: winner – Jane Phillips and Glynis Gould, 40 points over back nine from Carole Allen and Lynne Bubbins.

September 11 – John Lowden Cup/Golf Foundation Broach and CVW Modal: winner – Linda Howlett, net 72; runner-up: Lynne Bubbins, net 73.

Forthcoming events

SEPTEMBER 27 – Thursday league lunch.

October 23 – flower arranging demonstration given by Hilary West.

November 6 – Christmas fayre at the golf club, 6pm-9pm, all welcome.

November 10 – presentation night at clubhouse, 7.30pm.

November 16 – ladies' dinner.

November 20 – ladies' AGM, clubhouse, 7.30pm.

JP

New team member at Brynhill

GARETH BENNETT, whose family originate from Barry, has returned to the town to take on a major teaching role with Duncan Prior, the club's resident professional.

Gareth has a very impressive CV; winning the Sherborne Pro Am 2012 and qualifying for the Race to Woodbury top 50 on the West Region order of merit. He also created a huge academy at his previous golf club with more than 50 juniors.

He still plays competitive golf in the west region and, more importantly, has a developed eye for faults which cause problems in a golf swing.

Club maker on site

TO gain the most from your abilities requires the right equipment, and this means clubs based on your individual characteristics such as swing speed, height and hand size.

Qualified club maker John Griffiths is the third member of this team. Measurements and tests are carried out at the club negating the need to travel to some far distant place, a very important point if small adjustments are required after the clubs are made.

New assistant

DUNCAN has a further new assistant – Alex Lewis.

He has a degree in sports development and coaching, and Duncan has employed him based on his enthusiasm for all matters golf.

He will work closely with Duncan and Gareth as part of his training to become a full PGA Professional in due course.

Lessons

SINGLE lesson? Want a series with a nine-hole playing lesson to cap it off?

Call 01446 740004, or email: clubpro@brynhillgolfclub.co.uk, or: gareth@garethbennett.com.

JM

Rhoose FC in 'steady growth'

THE new 2012/13 season sees Rhoose FC continue its steady growth year on year.

This year the club boasts more than15 teams and 120 players covering all age groups from year-2 to senior level.

The club's investment in its coaching staff has seen representation for Cardiff at years three, four, five and six. Players have also been selected for the Vale of Glamorgan Development squad and the Mike Fowler Academy.

Alongside the younger players the club's senior team are having successes in the South Wales Amateur League, sitting comfortably in third place at present.

Alongside the football side of the club the social aspect has grown and is just as important. While the Olympics were on, five of the year-6 team carried out a sponsored bike ride around Rhoose covering the distance of Rhoose to the Olympic Stadium (no shorter than 250km). The lads raised more than £300 for new equipment for their team.

This year sees long-standing chairman Chris Price step down from his role within the club. The club would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for all his tireless work and efforts over the years and wishes him the best in his future projects.

New chairman Paul Humphry hopes to keep the club on the steady course as installed by Chris. All this, of course, is also down to a large team of volunteers and parents who help coach and organise events throughout the season – none showing more dedication than junior club secretary and coach Mark Bartlett, who is also finding time to forward important fixtures and news while based in Afghanistan with work.

This year's year-6 team are looking for players for an immediate start for this season. If you're interested, training takes place at Ceri Road Pitches in Rhoose every Friday at 6pm, just ask for Paul.

More details about the club can be found at our website: www.rhoosefc.org.uk.

PH

Barrivale results

Latest results from Barrivale, September 25:

1st Peter Millar & Diana Jones 63.19 per cent; 2nd Bryn Gough & Dave Reed 59.38; 3rd Huw Thomas & Celia Thomas 58.68 - Bryn & Dave won on handicap and also won the Nancy Malpas Memorial Trophy.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join telephone 01446 733425 or 01446 418380 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORT REPORT

Cowbridge's Kate attends Olympic and Paralympic event

OLYMPIC and Paralympic swimming heroes attended the National Pool, Swansea recently to be involved in pool activities with children from south Wales.

Kate Workman, a year-7 pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School who swims with Llantrisant Sharks, was one of the fortunate young people offered the opportunity to try out activities such as water polo, diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and rookie lifeguards.

The sessions included heroes such as Michael Jamieson, Olympic silver medallist in the 200m breaststroke in London 2012, David Davies, Olympic silver medallist in Beijing 2008, and Jemma Lowe and Georgia Davies, Commonwealth Games bronze medallists in Delhi 2010.

Paralympic heroes Nyree and Sascha Kindred and James O'Shea also provided advice and answered questions on how to become a future hero.

Kate described the day as "awesome and inspiring".

NT

Back row, LEFT to RIGHT: Jemma Lowe, David Davies, Ieuan Lloyd, Georgia Davies. Front row, LEFT to RIGHT: Kate Workman (Cowbridge Comprehensive School), Stephanie Battista (Y Pant School).

Senior football beat Cardiff High

THE school senior football team got off to a flying start with a resounding 5-2 victory over Cardiff High at the Cowbridge 3g centre.

There were some great performances from Matthew Jacka, Adam Roscrow and substitute Brad Rosser from year-11.

Roscrow piled pressure onto the visitors every time he touched the ball and used his pace well to beat the Cardiff High defence on several occasions.

Jacka looked composed in midfield and split the Cardiff High defence with a number of quality passes in the first half. Young Josh Thomas looked dangerous on the wing and Rhys Cogan and Todd Wilcox linked up well together to cause the capital city team lots of problems.

Half-time substitute Brad Rosser made an instant impact as he netted with his first touch after coming on.

Despite conceding a late consolation penalty, Cowbridge march on to the quarter-finals where they will meet stronger opposition. Well done boys!

NT

First and Seconds beat Brynteg

THE school senior rugby sides got off to a flying start in the first league game of the season away to Brynteg Comprehensive School.

The First XV dominated the game against their counterparts, coming away with a 38-6 victory. The Second XV also secured a comfortable 35-5 win.

In the First XV game, there were debuts for year-11 pupils Nicky Griffiths, Dan Holder, Harry Dowell Bennett, Josh Thomas, Aaron Bowman, Daniel Evans and the impressive Harry Goodfellow at scrum half.

The year-11 side are full of talented players who will push the older pupils all season for starting positions.

Captain Gus Rees McPherson once again led by example and earned lots of hard yards for the team with a series of quality carries throughout the game.

Fellow Blues player Oliver Hitchings was also in fine form and dominated the loose ball and contact areas.

With a new front row combination of Harry Collier, Sam Wood and Evan Phillips, Cowbridge actually struggled to compete at lineout and scrum.

These areas will be the main focus of attention in the immediate training sessions and the school will need to improve rapidly in these areas.

Wing Adam Roscrow ran in two tries and converted a host of penalties and conversions to confirm his position as first choice goal kicker. He also showed great strength in the tackle as Brynteg defenders were bounced into touch for his second try.

NT

First game, first victory

THE year-7 rugby team played their first game together against Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

Cowbridge got off to a great start, Barney Langton-Cryer went over for the first try of the match, which was excellently converted by Ioan Williams.

Straight from the re-start, Cowbridge continued to press and with some superb quick hands from the backs, Tom Humphreys ran in a try from the 22m, again expertly converted by Williams.

Llantwit were throwing everything at the home side but could not break down their solid defence.

Under some extreme pressure on their own line, Llantwit's kicking mistake was pounced on by open-side flanker Ben Jones, who grounded the loose ball to make the score 21-0 to Cowbridge.

The game was becoming very open, with both backlines spreading the ball wide looking for space on the wings.

Ruben Williams was exerting his physical presence all over the pitch, with a number of big tackles and powerful runs through the heart of the Llantwit defence. It was inevitable that Ruben was going to get on the scoresheet, and he did so by battering his way through several tackles.

The second half continued in the same manner. Cowbridge's defence did not falter and their attack was continuing to create and utilise space.

In the second half, Cowbridge ran in four more tries, two converted by Evan Thomas.

At the end of the game, the score finished 57-0 to Cowbridge, and their first match at comprehensive school resulted in a victory.

Players of the match: Ben Jones and Dante Phillips.

SDa

Year-9 hockey edged out

THE year-9 hockey team played their first game of the new season against Bro Morgannwg.

The game was even split in the first half; both teams had opportunities to score with Sian Smith having two great chances.

In the second half, Bro Morgannwg scored after intercepting the ball in the goalscoring 'D' and taking it the length of the pitch.

Jemma Viney, Sophia Harpin and Sian Smith had great shots on goal consecutively but the goalkeeper saved them all.

The game ended 1-0 to Bro Morgannwg.

Special mention must go to Jemma Viney and Seren Allin, the two players of the match. In defence, Molly Price, Megan Duncombe and Rhiannon Hill all did well to stop the Bro Morgannwg attack throughout.

Isobel Gambling and Ella Jones also performed really well in their first game for the school hockey team. Well done!

LJ

Welsh selection

CONGRATULATIONS to Lydia Hitchings in year-11, who has been selected to train with the Wales under-17 netball squad.

Well done and good luck Lydia!

SDi

LOCAL DARTS LEAGUE IS NOW UNDER WAY

THE 2012-2013 season of the Cowbridge darts league is now fully underway.

With the addition of the Cross Inn, Llanblethian, White Lion, Llanblethian and Highwaymann Inn, Rhoose the number of pubs supporting the league with teams has increased to nine.

Pubs continuing to support the league are the Edmondes Arms, Cowbridge, Farmers Arms and Hare and Hounds, Aberthin, Llanharry Working Men's Club, Llanharry, Carne Arms, Llysworney and Old Post Inn, Bonvilston.

The season officially started on September 11 with a preliminary round match in the Great Western Cup (A team knockout competition) in which the Carne beat the Old Post Ladies; this was followed up by the quarter-final matches played on September 25 when Carne beat Hare and Hounds, Edmondes 'B' beat Edmondes 'A', Cross Inn beat Highwayman Inn and Llanharry beat Farmers Arms.

In between these two-Cup rounds, Tuesday September 18 saw the start of the leagues matches.

It was a disappointing start for the newcomers from the Highwayman Inn who lost 9-0 against the Edmondes 'A'.

The defending champions, Edmondes 'B', had an early scare going 3-0 down against the Cross Inn but recovered to win 3-6.

The other results were: Hare and Hounds beat the Farmers 5-4 and Llanharry beat The Old Post Ladies 8-1. The Carne versus White Lion match will be played at a latter date.

Coming up on Tuesday, October 9 is the first round matches of the fours. These matches will be played at the Edmondes Arms, Llanharry Working Men's Club and Carne Arms.

All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information please e-mail Paul at: cowbridgedarts@google mail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

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Talygarn Vaulters' successful debut

The Talygarn Vaulters earned three wins and a third place in their debut British Vaulting Championships.

IT was a successful competition debut for the Talygarn Vaulters at the recent British Vaulting Championships in Hull, where they took three wins out of five classes.

The group were only established in February and are the only BEV vaulting group in south Wales.

The current age range is seven-19 years. None of the children had any previous experience in equestrian vaulting.

The squad won the walk team event and had two wins in the individual classes and a third place.

More photos are available at the club's website: http://www.talygarnec.co.uk/Gallery.php.

CR